

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 8, 2013

## The Second Sunday of Advent



John Propst  
Interim Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Angels We Have Heard On High* . . . . . Matthew Carr

### 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, our life, our mercy, our might.

C **Amen.**

P As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Great and Holy One,

C **in this time of waning daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We build ourselves up at the expense of others. We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure. Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay. Come to restore us in your image, remake us into your people, and rebuild what sin has broken, that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen.**

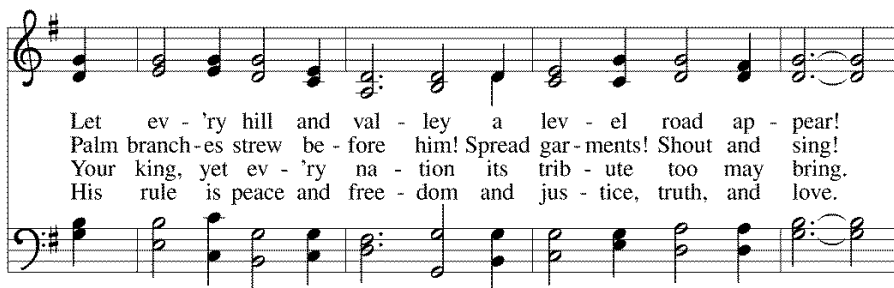
P Fear not, people of God: the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.

C **Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *Prepare the Royal Highway* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

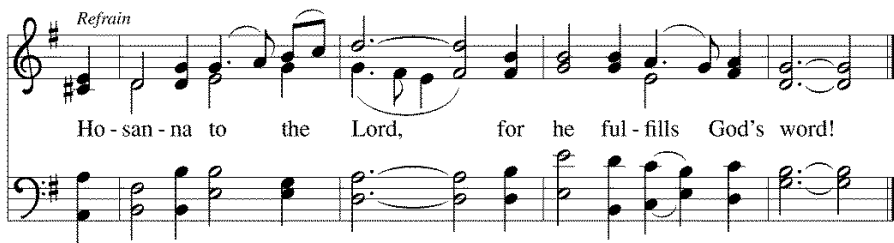


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE

A

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

[illegible]

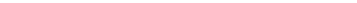
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**


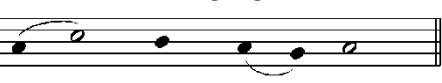


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

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

**Lord, have mer - cy.**





A 

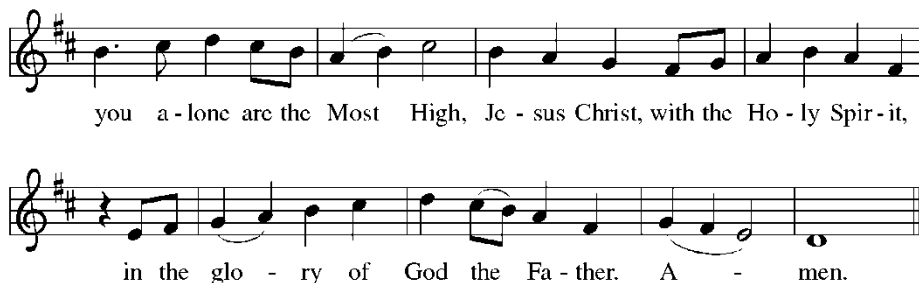
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
	
let us pray to the Lord.	Lord have mer - cy.
	
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.	A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

<i>Assisting minister</i> 
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
<i>All</i> 
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

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



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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*

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 11:1–10**

A reading from the eleventh chapter of Isaiah.

*In today's reading the prophet describes the ideal ruler who will come in the future as a green shoot springing from a dead stump (David's royal line) of Jesse (David's father). Gifted by the Spirit, this messiah will seek justice for the poor, and the reign of this monarch will be experienced as paradise regained.*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH:** *Light One Candle . . . Sing 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Verses Only*

The second candle reminds us that Christ comes to bring **PEACE** to our hearts and minds as we pray for peace in the world.



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## SECOND READING

**Romans 15:4–13**

A reading from the fifteenth chapter of Romans.

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging*

*each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

<sup>11</sup>and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 3:1–12

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
<sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P The gospel of the Lord.

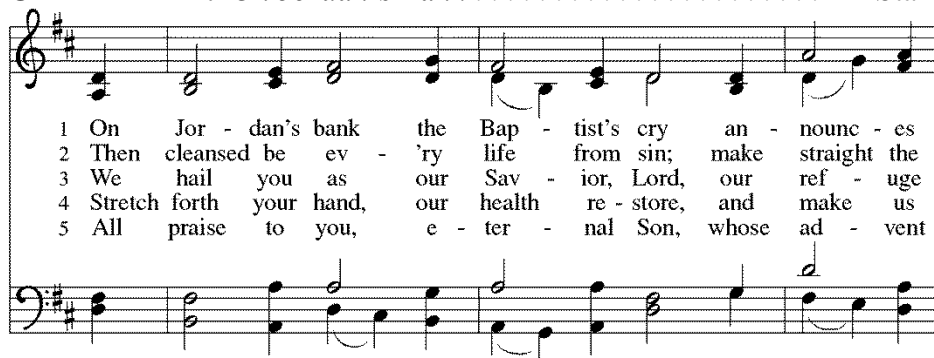
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated.*

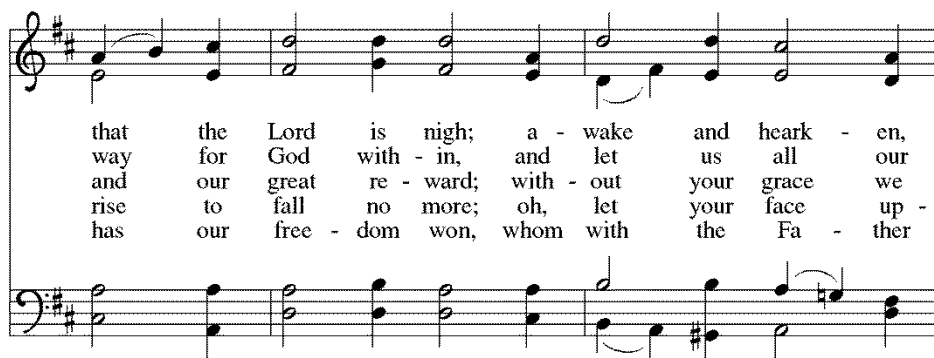
**SERMON SKIT:** *John the Baptist meets Santa Claus...*



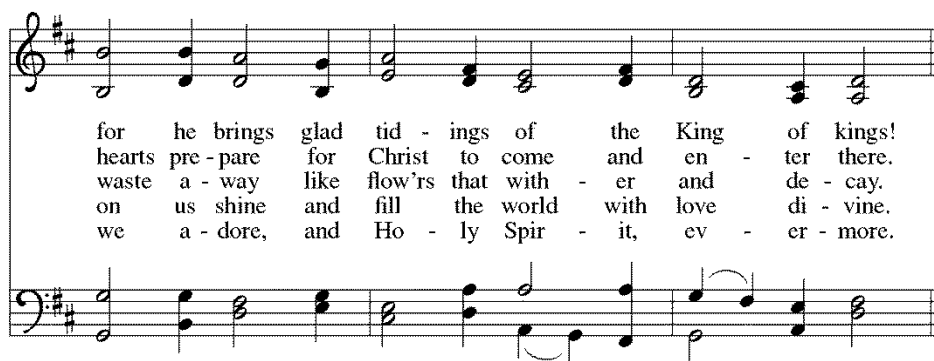
# HYMN OF THE DAY: *On Jordan's Bank* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## THE 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.

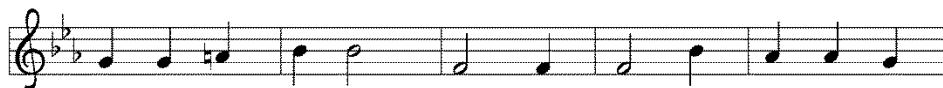
## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Peace Child* ..... Chamber Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Create In Me* ..... All Stand & Sing



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**C** God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Renew us in the covenant of your Son, O Holy One, and revive us by the outpouring of your Spirit, who leads us to wisdom, understanding, and faithfulness in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Establish harmony in all creation, that all living things may work according to your loving and generous purpose. Fill the earth with your goodness and glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to those who hold power and authority among the nations. Lead them to tend to those who are poor and meek with your righteousness and justice. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

By your word and your people encourage and give heart to those who have lost hope in the face of depression, disease, and death. Give them faith in your promises. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shape this faith community into a place of welcome and support for all people. Feed and strengthen us by your gifts of grace, that we may share them with others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have gathered the saints into your holy and eternal presence. Make us steadfast in the faith until we are all made one in your new creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

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

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

### **BLESSING**


**P** The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**



# SENDING SONG: *Rejoice, Believers* . . . . . All Stand & Sing





1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;


the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Bring good news to the poor.

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

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

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



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

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

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Shelia & Tim Kelly in honor of Nathan's birthday; and by Bob & Denise Wiegand to the glory of God.

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

***Greg Byrum, Worship & Music***

**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, December 1, 2013:**

Attendance: 165

## **Budget Report**

**December 1, 2013**

Current Offering Received 12/1/13	\$ 2,743.50
Budget Expenses, Month to date	\$13,805.69
Offering – Month to Date	\$16,411.50

The Current Offering Received for the year through December 1, 2013 is \$20,271.47 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

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## **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr., Sandra Cline

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain

Courtndy Gatlin Tracey Nault

Stephanie Hinson

**ACOLYTES:** Claire Mitchell  
Garrett Fox

**CRUCIFERS:** Hannah Carnes  
Noah Rogers

**GREETER:** Pat Long

**TELLERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly

**USHERS:** Denise Wiegand + Volunteer

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## **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

### **Today, Sunday, December 8**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir  
10:30 am The Service  
Council meets after  
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
5:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm **Holy Comforter Youth**  
Church Choir  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

### **Friday, December 13**

6:00 pm ***Kids'Club*** children meet  
at *Daniel Stowe*  
*Botanical Gardens* to  
walk through the  
Christmas lights.

### **Saturday, December 14**

10:00 am Children's Christmas  
**Play Practice**  
5:30 pm Church Choir Party

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### **Tuesday, December 10**

7:00 pm Chamber Choir  
Nar-Anon

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## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 8-14**

Today, December 8 Nathan Kelly  
Brian Wallace

December 10 Marguerite Shive  
Denise Wiegand

December 9 Bob Koehler  
December 10 Melissa Lingerfelt  
Caitlan Reese

December 11 Beth Brittain  
Monique Estelle  
December 12 Janet Achor

**S.O.C.K.S. Angel Tree** *Thank you for your tremendous response in helping the children of our community!*

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**WE WELCOME Janet Myrick** as she accompanies **Matthew Carr** during the Prelude music offering.

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**THE FIGURES ADDED TO OUR CRECHE** this morning are Mary & Joseph. We are reminded that Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus declared that a Census must be taken. Thus, Mary and Joseph ended up in a stall because there was no room for them in the inn.

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**THE BLUE CANDLE** in the crèche reminds us that we are to keep our hearts and minds in confession and prayer this entire Advent Season.

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**SAVE THE DATE:** Women of the church are invited to an ***Epiphany Tea*** on Saturday, **January 4 at 3:00 pm** in the church fellowship hall. Refreshments provided. Please bring a few holiday pictures and we will complete a scrapbook page!

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The **2014 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.

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### **SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES:**

<b>December 8:</b>	10:30 am	Special Guests <i>John the Baptist &amp; Santa Claus</i>
<b>December 15:</b>	10:30 am	<b><i>Hanging of the Green</i></b> Service
<b>December 22:</b>	10:30 am	<b><i>Children's Christmas Program</i></b> With Holy Communion
<b>December 24:</b>	1:30 pm	<b>Children's Christmas Eve Service</b>
	10:45 pm	Prelude
	11:00 pm	<b><i>Candlelight Service with Holy Communion</i></b>
<b>December 29:</b>	10:30 am	Regular Service with Christmas Carols





## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Sherry Alexander &  
Family

Louise Austin  
Virginia Crump

Daniel Dowd  
Ferrie Hedrick  
Richard Holden  
Zac Hullander

Lee Ireland  
Dianne Lail  
Chase Lineberger  
Liz Propst

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Kathy Beam  
Dale Burris  
Family of Rick Eckard  
Ronnie Hagy  
Brian Hedrick  
Kathy Helton  
Dot Hollar  
Betty Fox  
Claudia Frazier  
Ronnie Hersey  
Betty Kannapel

Laura Lanuto &  
Family  
Jeff Lail  
Ruth Lail  
Dan Martin  
Sandra Nix  
Butch Passailaigue  
Jean Peters  
Taylor Propst &  
Family  
Mara Rappleyea

Joel Rivera (NY)  
Steve Sanford  
Megan Sigler  
Ramona J. Sinclair  
Jimmy Surratt  
Charmaine Townsend  
Buck Weatherford  
Beverly F. Wall  
Gloria Ward



## OUR SERVICEMEN

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer

Jeremy Shaver

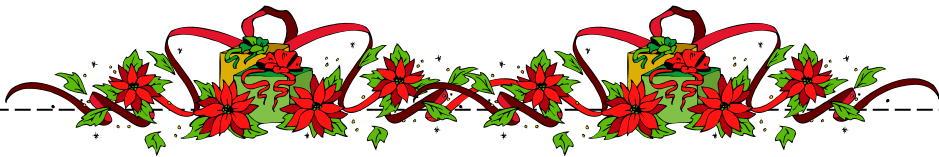
Please remember these people in your prayers.

**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](http://www.holyc.org).



*Expressions of Sympathy & Hope*  
Are offered to Sherry Alexander & Family  
On the recent death of Sherry's mom, Gertrude Alexander



## Poinsettia Order Form

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

TO THE GLORY OF GOD: \_\_\_\_\_

PAID CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ PAID CASH \_\_\_\_\_

**(Remember to add \$15.00 for each poinsettia ordered.)**

Payment must be attached to order form.

**All orders due by today, December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Give your form and payment to an usher or take to the church office.



The beautiful Nativity located in the foyer of the Education Building was made and donated by Richard & Kay Holden.


### **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

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

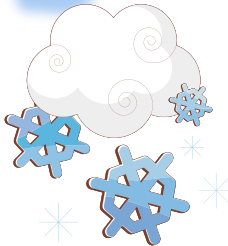

**[www.HolyC.org](http://www.HolyC.org)**

John Propst, Interim Pastor - [JohnCPropst@gmail.com](mailto:JohnCPropst@gmail.com)

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



# WHAT'S THE WEATHER?



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 the recorded message.
- Check the church website at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org)
- Watch WSOC-TV for their list of closings and/or delays.
- An email will be sent. *Please give us your email address if we do not have it.*

We will do our best to keep you informed.

