

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 11, 2015

Baptism of Our Lord



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* 1835 Harmony

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism
as the presiding minister begins:*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spoke light into creation, who calls us to listen and follow, who sends us to shine like stars.

C Amen.

P Let us come before God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy and merciful God,

C we confess that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers and against you. We cherish the values of this world. We cause others to stumble. The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God. Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagles' wings, that we may do your will with courage and delight. Amen.

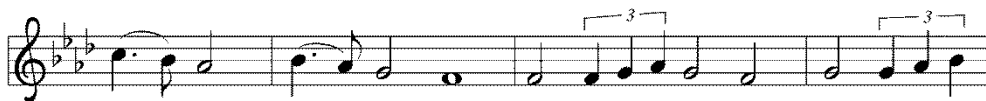
P Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved." God gives power to the weary and strengthens the powerless. Be cleansed, be healed, for in the name of + Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins and the revealing of God's reign.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Thy Strong Word* All Stand & Sing



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976

Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

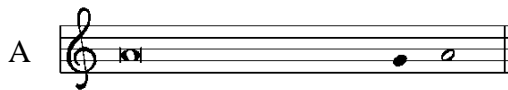
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

GREETING

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



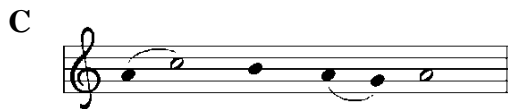
C In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



A Lord, have mer - cy.



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



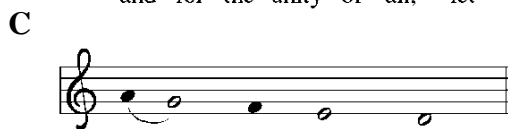
Lord, have mer - cy.



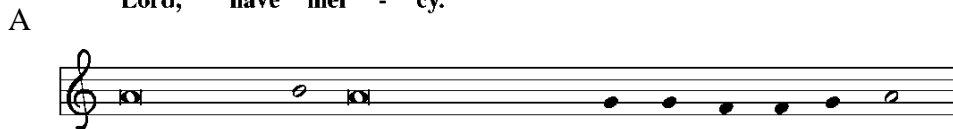
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.

Assistant *Congregation*

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

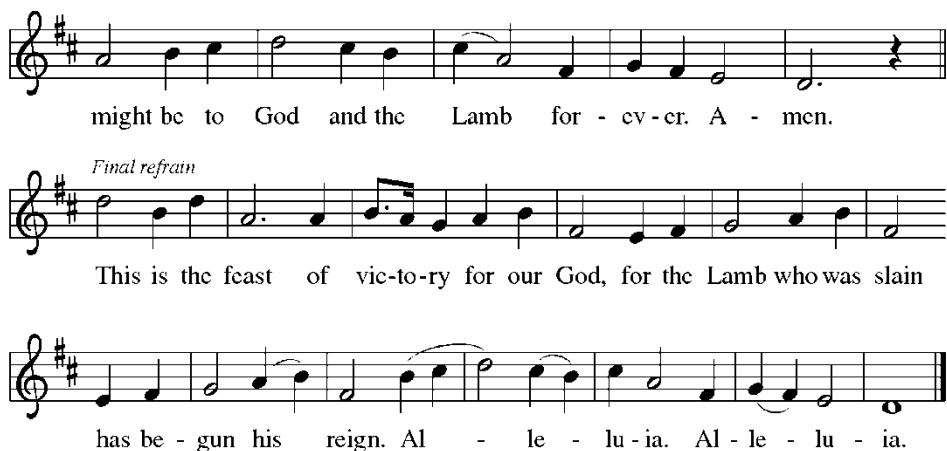
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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

Genesis 1:1–5

A reading from the first chapter of Genesis.

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for any person living in the chaos and darkness of despair. God created and continues to create new life.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Acts 19:1-7

A reading from the nineteenth chapter of Acts.

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptized them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered them with gifts of the Spirit.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE





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

GOSPEL

Mark 1:4–11

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



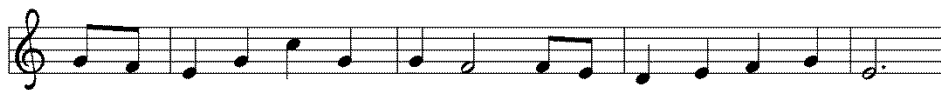
⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The gospel of the Lord.

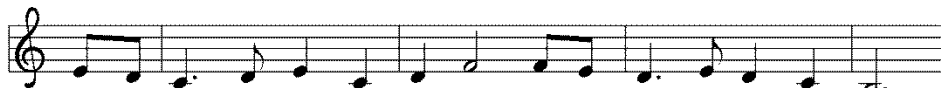
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus All Stand & Sing*



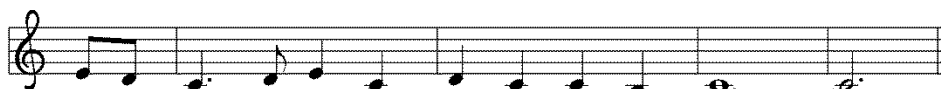
1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break - ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we give you thanks for the common life we share in you. We grieve the loss of unity in Christ and beg your help in tearing down the walls of division within your church. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your Spirit embraces all creation, giving life, growth, and beauty. Move us to receive all we touch as your gift, and to preserve your earth for the sake of all living things now and in the ages to come. Lord, in your mercy,
Have mercy, O God.

Pour the blessings of food and shelter on the poor of every land and on all those denied the abundance of creation. Let them taste your goodness and know the delight and freedom of your presence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Speak healing and peace to the hearts of those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Come to the forgotten, those separated from home and family, those near death, and those who grieve. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the waters of baptism you claim us as beloved sons and daughters. Shower your joy on the newly baptized, those preparing for baptism, and those who will affirm their baptism. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, we give thanks for the saints of every generation who followed your beloved Son through the waters of baptism and beckoned us to come along. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray,
knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *When the Storms of Life are Raging.* Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Praise and Thanksgiving* All Stand & Sing

Praise and thanksgiving be to God our maker,
Source of all blessing, prodigal creator,
Baptized and made your own,
Now we come before you, and we adore you.

Praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
One Lord, one faith, one source of ev'ry merit.
Here now renew your church through this symbol given;
Grant peace from heaven.

Text: H. Francis Yardley, 1911–1990; Frank J. Whiteley, b. 1914, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered
together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the
ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ,
now and forever. Amen.

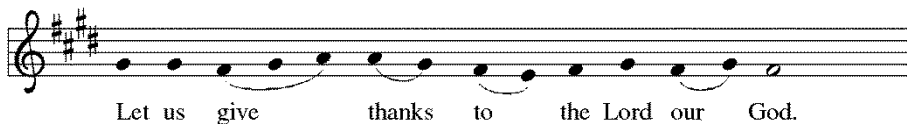
DIALOGUE

Pastor *Congregation*

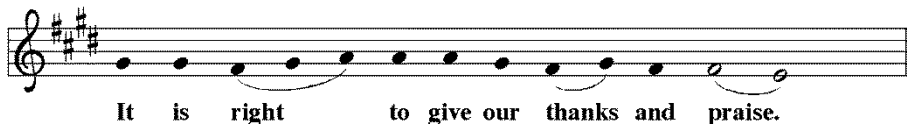
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor



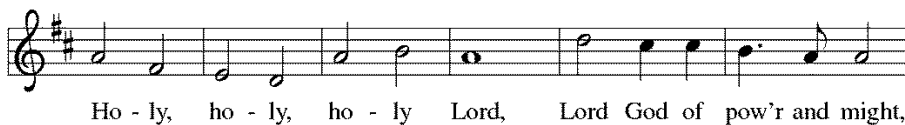
Cong.



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,**

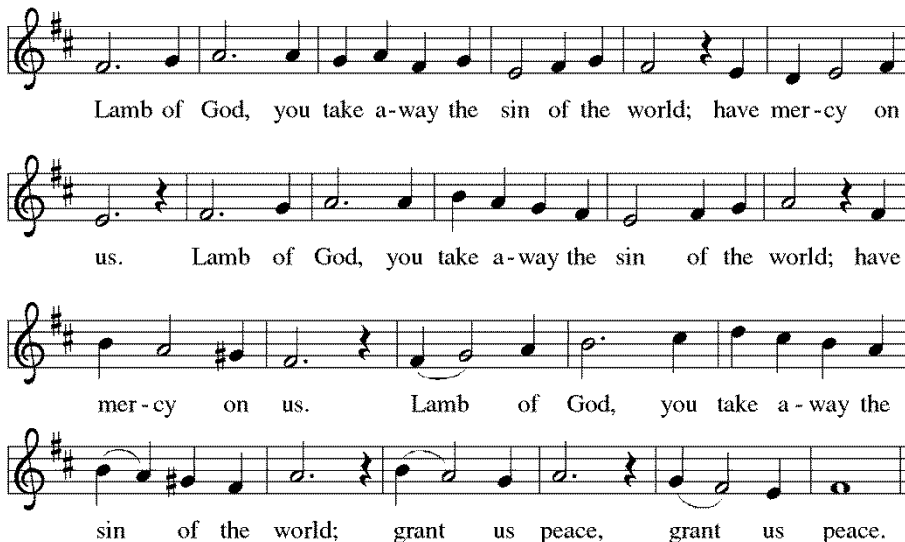
as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table of mercy, where the feast of life is spread.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



COMMUNION

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters . . All Sing*



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



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



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



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

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

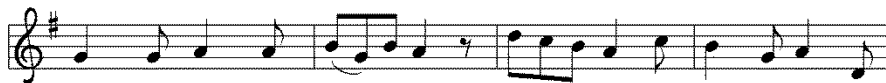
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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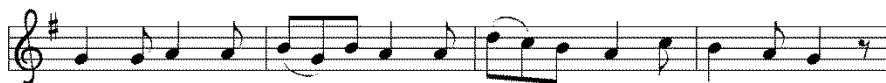
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P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

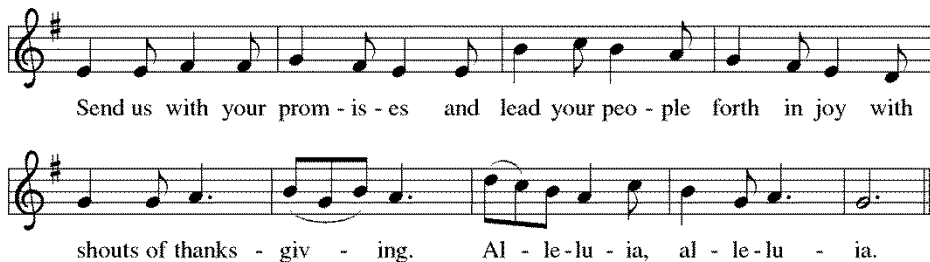
SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and bear the name of Christ.



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Everlasting God, we bless you

C that you have brought us to the mountaintop and fed us with the life and light of your Son. Send us in his name from this place to bring light into dark corners, healing where lives are torn, and nourishment to every hungry heart, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P God the Father, light-creator; God the Son, Light from Light; and God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer, bless you and + give you peace.

C Amen.

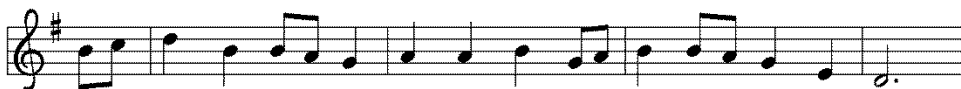
SENDING SONG: *Come, Join the Dance of Trinity* All Stand & Sing



- 1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
- 2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
- 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
- 4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter - weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.
set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.
we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
Let voic - es rise and in - ter - weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.
when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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



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

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

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Sarah, Elizabeth & Khloe Tench in honor of Jack & Laura's 39th wedding anniversary.

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, January 4, 2015:

Attendance: 153

Budget Report

January 4, 2015

Current Offering Received 1/4/2014	\$ 7,243.00
Weekly Budget Expenses	\$ 4,598.27

Vision Fund Contribution Summary January 1-December 31, 2014

(October 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014 – 4 TH Quarter)	\$ 2,840.00
2014 Vision Fund Contribution YTD	\$ 12,772.00

Jack Tench, Financial Secretary

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr., Jo Singleton**ACOLYTE:** Need Volunteer**CRUCIFER:** Need Volunteer**CANTOR:** Ellen Fleming**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain

Donna Bean

Susan Woodcock

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADER:

Tom or Melissa Bocchino

GREETER: Mandi Kline**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**

Dennis & Dee Tucker

TELLERS: Raini Kimball,
Dennis Tucker**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Team A

Donna Bean Shelia Kelly

Jo Singleton Jack Tench

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 AM)

Ginger MacDonald & Pat Koehler

USHERS: Denise Wiegand + Volunteer**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, January 11**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
Church Council after

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbell Choir

5-7 pm **HCY**

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, January 1312 Noon *Agape Lunch Bunch*7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon**Saturday, January 17**10:00 am **Kids' Club** meets at
Textile Lanes in Belmont**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK:** January 11-17

January 13 Abbey Kowalewski

January 14 Douglass McLaughlin-Williams



January 17 Julie Wiegand

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

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.

Sunday School Attendance January 4, 2015		
	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	3	1
Pre-K	5	1
God's Eden	10	1
Youth	1	3
Seekers		10
Adult Bible Class		15
Totals:	19	31





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

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

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

Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds
George Roberson
Marguerite Shive

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

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

Dennis Jordan
Betty Kannapel
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Lance Kirkland
Terry Mahaffey
Steve Mathis
Kenadee Nelson
Mark Outlaw
Alicia Overton

Jean Peters
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Joe Reynolds
Anna Rudder
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

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 inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

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

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