

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 2, 2014

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



John Propst
Interim Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING: *If You're Happy and You Know It* . . Children's Ensemble

PRELUDE: Fanfare on *Praise to the Lord* J. D. Payne

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.

GATHERING SONG: *Let Streams of Living Justice All Stand & Sing*

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;
 give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,
 the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;
 a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

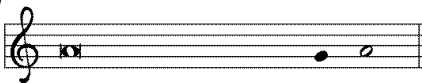
Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

GREETING

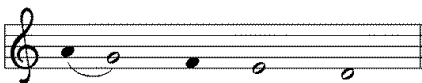
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

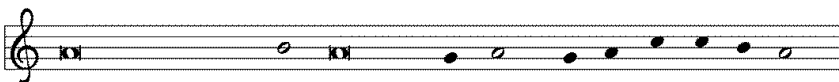
KYRIE

A 


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C 

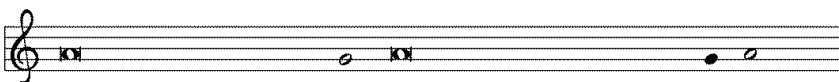
Lord, have mer - cy.

A 

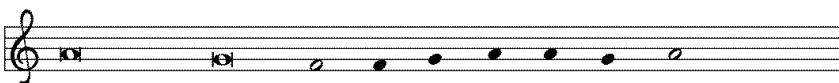
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C 

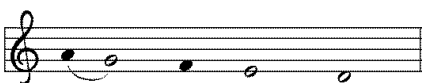
Lord, have mer - cy.

A 

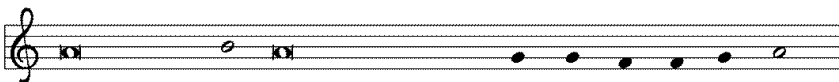
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

C 

Lord, have mer - cy.

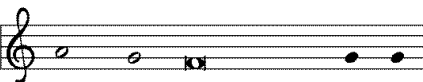
A 

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

Assistant 
let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation 

Lord have mer - cy.



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



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly 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

Micah 6:1–8

A reading from the sixth chapter of Micah.

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,

and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

A reading from the first chapter of Corinthians.

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of

our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1–12

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: *God's Love Language* (Notes on page 20). Pastor John

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Blest Are They* All Stand & Sing

Leader or All

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
3 Blest are they . . . who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4 Blest are they . . . who seek peace; . . they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they who
shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
pure of heart; they . . . shall see God.
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain
All

Re - jice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

Re - jice and be glad!

Yours is the king-dom of God!

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: BLEST ARE THEY, 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.

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.

God, you call the church on earth to witness to the life we receive in Jesus. Help us to share your good news with the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All creation is holy. Lead us to restore the hills and valleys, lakes and rivers, forests and coastlands to the beauty you created. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Call those who are wise and powerful to use their gifts to do justice in a world longing for peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comfort those who mourn, ease the suffering of all who are lonely or in pain, heal the sick. Bring to your table all who hunger and thirst. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Continue to uphold this community of faith to proclaim Christ crucified and reach out to those who are poor, hungry, homeless, or easily overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect us in our weakness until you gather us with all your saints upon your holy hill. 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.

Members of the Children's Ensemble come to the chancel during the "Peace."

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Hallelu...Halleluia...Praise Ye the Lord*
Children's Ensemble

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let The Vineyards* All Stand & Sing



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these
gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. 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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Cong.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Blessed are all who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
C Thanks be to God.



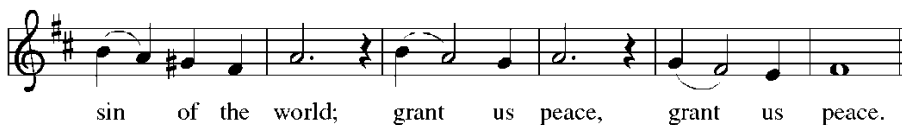
COMMUNION SONG

Music notation for the Communion Song, featuring three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

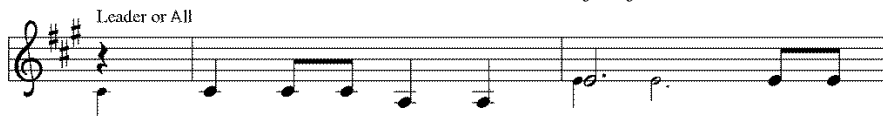
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



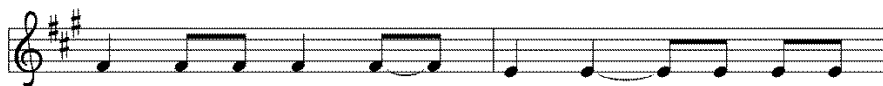
COMMUNION

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.

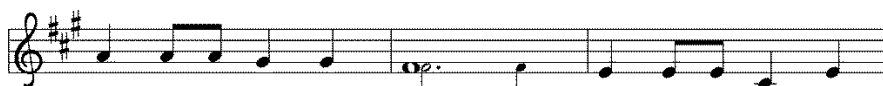
MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *I Am the Bread of Life* All Sing



- 1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
- 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
- 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
- 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
- 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and . . .
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in . . . me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of . . . God, who have . . .



me ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world. . . .

Refrain
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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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 voice-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.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Lord, it is good for us to be here,

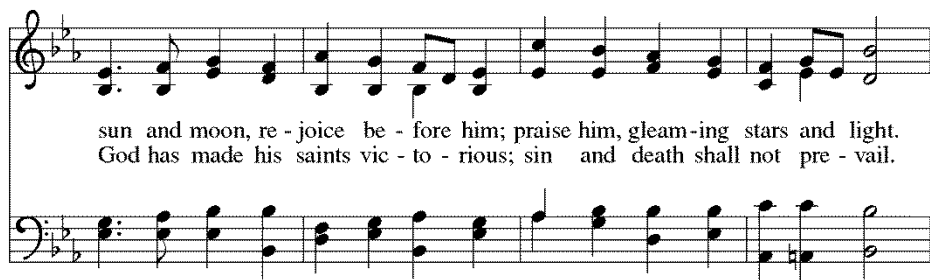
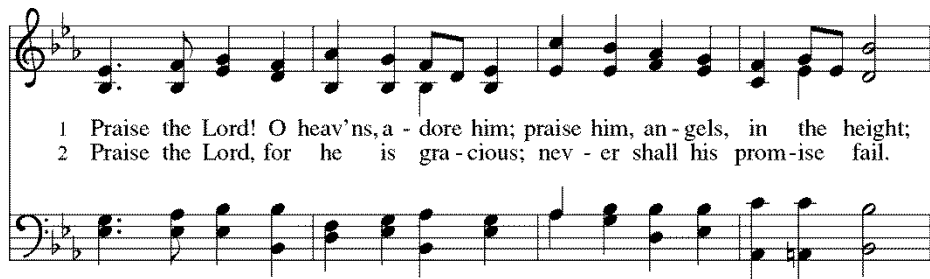
C for we have tasted your glory in this holy meal. Continue your goodness as we go out from here. Open our eyes to see your face shining in every person, and send us to be your servants in every place, for you are the life and light of all, both now and forever. Amen.

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: *Praise the Lord! O Heavens* All Stand & Sing



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;

laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

Text: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, London, 1796
Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

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 **Fourth 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. **If you wish a name to be added to our prayer list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form found at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Linda Grimsley and Cher Grant in memory of Jamie Grimsley, Linda's brother.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, January 26, 2014:

Attendance: 125

Budget Report

January 26

Current Offering Received 1/26/14

\$ 1,970.00

Budget Expenses, Month-To-Date

\$ 16,722.54

Offering, Month-To-Date

\$ 15,622.50

The Current Offering Received for the year through January 26, 2014 is \$1,100.04 less than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jo Singleton

GREETERS: Jo Singleton &
Shirley Causby

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Louise Day, Co-Captain

Brenda Daly, Co-Captain

Nancy Powell Becky Richards

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Eric & Renee Carpenter

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)

Fran Holland

Dee Smith

Charles Mauney

+ Volunteer

TELLERS: Lynn Martin, Sherry Perry

USHERS: Need Volunteers

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

Today, Feb. 2: Trudy Whitener & Tom Bocchino; Feb. 9: Maria Carr & Madison Carr

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: February 2-8

Today, February 2 Fred Meekins
Stacy Whitener
February 4 Scott Carr

February 6 Julia Ratchford
February 8 Chris Hullander
Scott Zander



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, February 2

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service with **Holy Communion**
4:00 pm Adult Handbell Choir
5:00 pm Church Choir
No HCY, meets next Sunday
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Monday, February 3

11:00 am *Morning Circle*
Meet at church, go out to
lunch after the meeting

Tuesday, February 4

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

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**" **begins today, February 2, 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.

Please prayerfully consider joining this class. If you have any questions about the course please see **Mandi Kline** or email her at mandikline@gmail.com.

Accept this invitation for you to join an ***Inquiring Heart*** Class on Sundays mornings at **9:30 am on February 9, 16, 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. Email Pastor John at JohnCPropst@gmail.com.



Share Your Love! Bring a covered dish and a cheerful heart to learn how you can enhance the church in response to God's word and gifts given to you. Any age, any or no experience...your church needs you!

We will gather **Sunday, February 16**, immediately after the worship service for a ***Fellowship & Volunteer Luncheon***. The church will provide fried & rotisserie chicken.



Sermon Notes: The 5 Love Languages (Dr. Gary Chapman)

- Words of affirmation
- Spending quality time
- Receiving gifts
- Acts of service
- Physical touch

*“He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”* (Micah 6:8 from NRSV) **or ...**

*“But He’s already made it plain how to live, what to do,
what GOD is looking for in men and women.
It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,
be compassionate and loyal in your love,
And don’t take yourself too seriously—
take God seriously.”* (from The Message)

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Questions of application for week:

- Have I ever tried to identify the love language of those people closest to me? And then “speak” that language to them on a regular basis?
- If God has a love language, what have I done to “speak” that language to God?
- Do I live as an “owner” of things or a “manager” of what God has loaned to me in this life?

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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John Propst, Interim Pastor - JohnCPropst@gmail.com

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