

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 10, 2016

Baptism of Our Lord



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *He Comes to Us* Burkhardt

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 creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

C Amen.

P Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

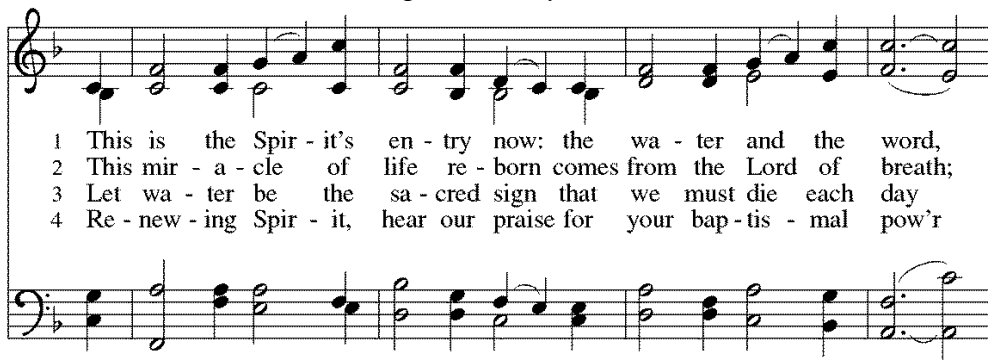
P Mighty and loving God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

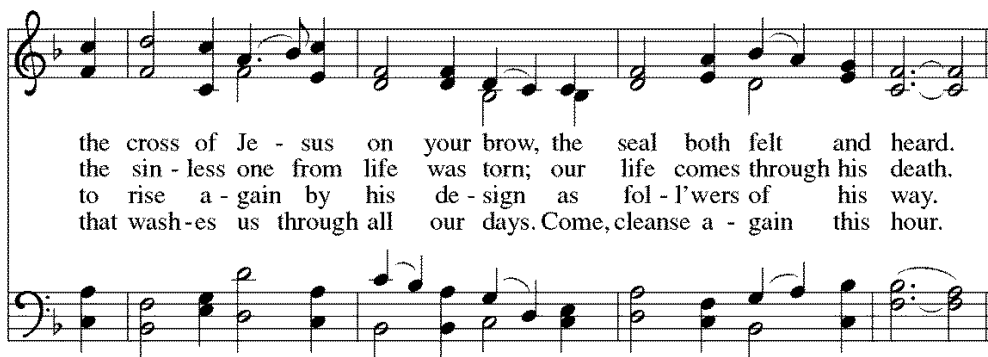
P Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now* All Stand & Sing



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
 the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
 to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
 that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933

Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version

Text © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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 All sing Refrain; Verses sung by Cantor



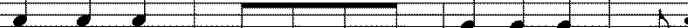
Refrain
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev'-ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

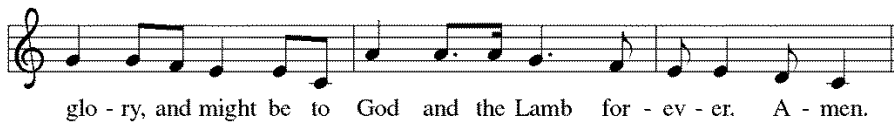
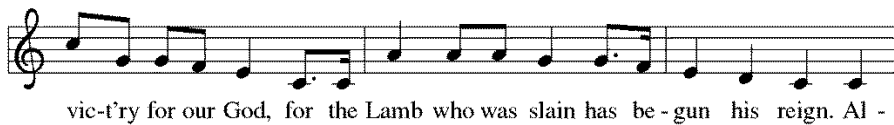
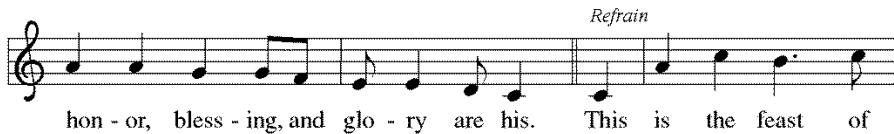
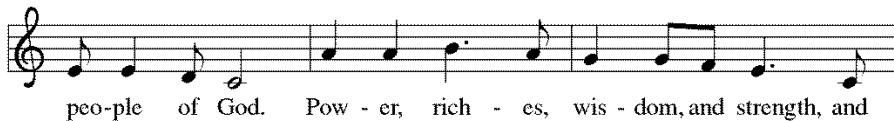
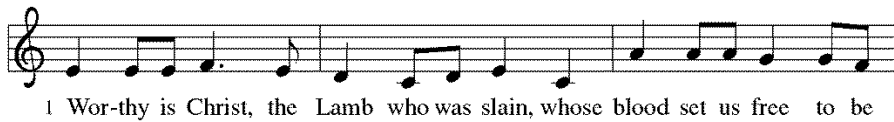
CANTICLE OF PRAISE All sing Refrain & Verses

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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

Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from the forty-third chapter of Isaiah.

Near the end of Israel’s exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

A reading from the eighth chapter of Acts.

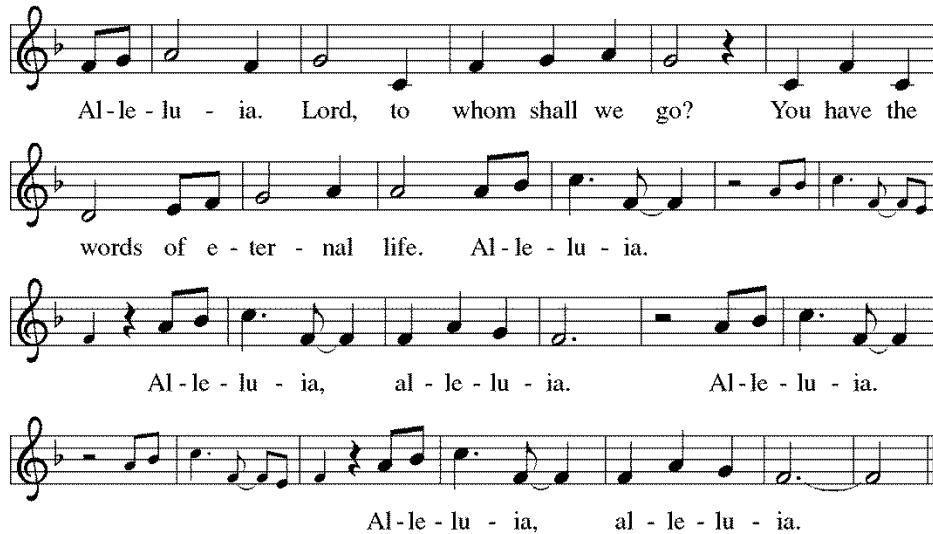
Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And 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: *You Are Mine* All Stand & Sing



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
(4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom,

I

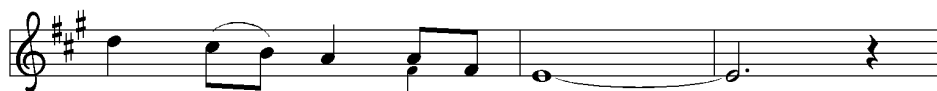


I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see.
heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.

(2) In the



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here.
Come and rest in me.
all will know my name.
up, now walk and live!

To stanza 2
To refrain
To refrain
To refrain

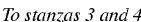


Refrain

Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



4 “I

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9

For this world, which you redeemed, that the powerful in all nations foster its health and care for all its creatures. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give your people of every land the tools and strength to care for one another. Give passion to strive for justice to your people. Bless all countries with the courage to follow what is wise and good. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lift up the poor and oppressed, ease the troubled minds and hearts of those in turmoil, and surround those who are ill with the comforts of good medicine and good friends, signs of your healing. We pray especially for Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide all those preparing for baptism, their sponsors, and this assembly so that we all live into the promises made in baptism. Lead us all to scripture, the holy supper, and toward justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for the lives of the faithful departed and for the assurance of the same resurrection by our baptism into Christ's death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all of your beloved for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Lord, You Are Light* Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Remember and Rejoice* All Stand & Sing

1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most ho - ly name,
3 We pledge our - selves a - new to flee the lures of hell,
4 God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.
5 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.

We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rise.
for - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by Spir - it flame.
to cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.
We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rise.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, 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.**

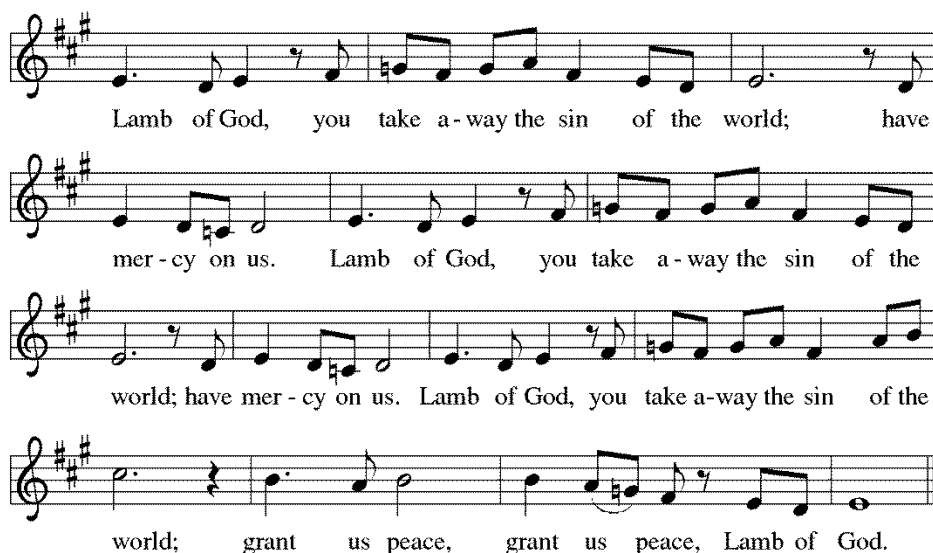
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those**

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 The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God
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, Lamb of God.



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: *Wade in the Water* All Sing
Verse: Leader (Choir and Congregation sing as indicated)

Refrain
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All

1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader

wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.
C We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and

**in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

BLESSING

P God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life.
The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of
almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C Amen.

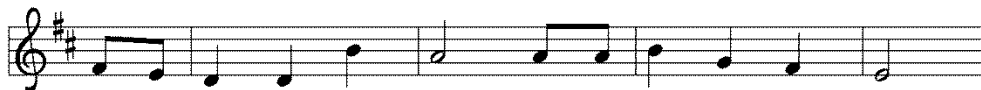
SENDING SONG: *Baptized and Set Free* All Stand & Sing



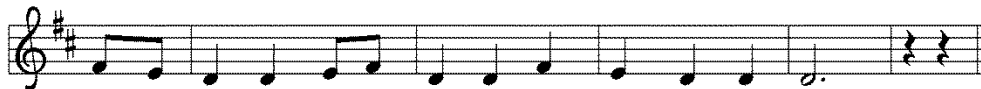
1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more, Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The 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. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance to find one.



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 online form at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Phil & Carol Posey in memory of Althea Pruitt.

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



Sunday School Attendance January 3, 2016

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	4	2
Pre-School	6	2
Lower Elem.	8	1
Upper Elem.	1	1
Middle School	2	1
High School	1	4
Seekers		11
Adult Bible Class		12
Totals:	22	34

Offering and Attendance Report for January 3, 2016:

Attendance: 126

Budget Report

	<u>January 3, 2016</u>
Current Offering Received 1/3/16	\$ 5,171.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, YTD	\$ 5,171.00
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 3,025.70

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Jr.

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Volunteers

EUCCHARISTS PRESENTERS:

Volunteers

CANTOR: Greg Byrum

GREETER: Volunteer

TELLERS: Raini Kimball &
Dennis Tucker

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Judy & Mollie Caldwell

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

Infants: Sarrazin Family

Toddlers: Trudy Whitener

USHERS: Need Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: January 10-16

Today, January 10 Brandy Milton
Becky Richards
January 13 Abbey Kowalewski

January 14 Douglas McLaughlin-
Williams

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, January 10

10:30 am Worship Service w/HC
Church Council
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm **HCY**, Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, January 13

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Saturday, January 16

11:00 am **Kids's Club** meets at the
Lowell skating rink



Tuesday, January 12

12 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**/Bible Study
7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

The 2016 Flower Chart is available in the narthex.

Please *print your name* at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 vase 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.

2016 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex for you to pick up.

**All year-end reports from committee and church group
chairpersons are due to Dianne in the church office.**

Christian Ed Committee meets Tuesday January 26 at 7 in the fellowship hall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2016

If you are willing to serve as a **Greeter**, **Eucharist Presenter**, **Lector** or **Usher** for the **2016** year, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet for each position you are volunteering for. Each volunteer position is listed on a separate clipboard. The clipboards are located in the narthex. If willing to volunteer for the whole month then sign your name at each date for that month. **The chief lector will serve on festival Sundays.**



Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Kathy Graves.
The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
David Dowd
Dot Holland

Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger
Marquerite Shive

Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds
Anna Spikes
Kevin Washle

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy
Harriett Ange
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Mike Butler
Libby Byrum
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Zachary Evans
Jamey Gardner
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Lewis Gilbert Family
Brian Hedrick

Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Buddy Kircus
Marshall Kinley
Karin Larsen
Terry Mahaffey
Lynn McFarland
Al McCoy
Clay McCoy
Gene McRorie
Susan Nichols
Mark Outlaw
Alicia Overton
Ramesh Patel
Jean Peters

Beverly Howe Poag
Jim Poag
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Julio Quiros
Anna Rudder
Tangie Shingler
Megan Sigler
Margaret Sparks
E. Taylor & Family
Carson Thomas
Sally Vanhoy
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles

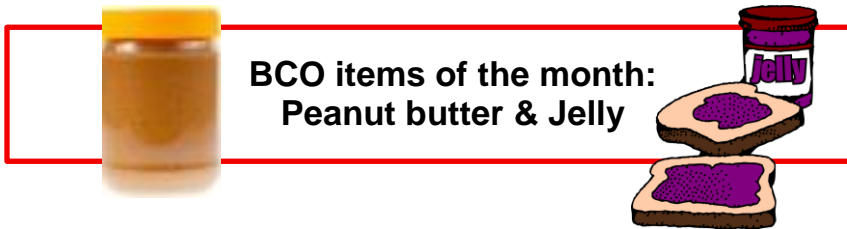
OUR SERVICEMEN & SERVICEWOMEN



Hannah Carnes
Matt Cisek
Leo Kasmer

Jason Gardner
Tom Kasmer
Jeremy Shaver

Dillon Kasmer
Alex Norris



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