

# Holy Communion Lutheran Church

May, 2014

1525 Clarks Creek Road

Banner Elk, North Carolina 28604

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The Rev. Dr. David N. Mielke, STS, Pastor  
The congregation of Holy Communion, Ministers

Mrs. Edna Russell, Organist

Mr. Ralph Daughtry, Council President

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## Pastor’s Letter

Dear Friends in Christ, our Church family,

**CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

These are exciting times to be a member of Holy Communion Lutheran Church. We just came through our observance of Lent and the triumph of Easter. What a joy it was on Easter Sunday to have nearly every seat filled in our sanctuary as we heard God’s Word of the Resurrection, sang the Easter carols, and received Him in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Now, through these Sundays of Easter we focus on Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, and the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of our sanctuary. What a marvelous time it will be!

We will begin that Pentecost Sunday morning with Sunday school followed by the morning worship service at 11am. Following worship we will gather in the Morgan Building for a covered dish lunch. At 2pm we will have a service of dedication followed by a reception. The two services will be as close to the original order of worship of 1939 as it can be. As President J. L. Morgan was with us in 1939, Bishop Bolick will be with us in 2014.

Your planning committee (Rosa, Lisa, Denver, Pat, and I) recognize there is a great deal of preparation that needs to be made. They are busy gathering photos and other memorabilia for exhibiting. We are also sending letters of invitation to area churches and other entities and people who have ties to Holy Communion.

**If you have any special invitations you want us to send, please let me know ASAP.**

An extra effort will be needed from each of you so please volunteer to get the preparation tasks done as they come up and let us celebrate, praising God, together.

Yours in Christ’s service,

*Pastor David Mielke*

## **Ask Ms. Townsend**

(Each month Ms. Townsend will answer questions which have been asked by members of our congregation or respond to issues that come up in general conversation.)

Dear Ms. Townsend,

**I see where the Catholic Church has made saints out of two dead popes. What do we Lutherans believe about saints?**

*Just Wondering*

Dear Wondering,

Saints play a very important role in the Christian life. We name our churches after them (St. Mark, for example.) We commemorate saints' days when they fall on Sunday. We also emphasize All Saints' day which is always the first Sunday in November and we sing, "For all the saints who from their labors rest..." Even though most pastors I know refer to their parishioners as saints, historically sainthood has been reserved for those whom the grace of God has resurrected into the presence of God. The remembering of particular saints is a way of honoring those who have shown extraordinary faith in their earthly life and who now inspire us.

Two things Lutherans believe about sainthood:

1. It is not God's reward for being a high Christian achiever. God's grace is equally for all.
2. We don't need saints as mediator between us and God. God hears your every prayer. You may call upon a saint to pray for you just as you call on your neighbor to pray for you.

That simply means there are more prayers before God on your behalf.

In short, saints are not "goody-goody" individuals, but those in whom God is working toward His ends. That includes both the living and the dead.

Blessings to you,

***Ms. Townsend***

## **News and Celebrations**

2014 congregational directories are available. You may pick one up in the narthex. A special thanks is extended to Mary Kay for taking our information and compiling it. Please let her know of any errors needing correction or omissions which need to be added.

**Michael Miller and Tiffany Opsata** are posting their banns. Posting of Banns is an old word meaning declaring their intention to marry. Our congregation is invited to this marriage service on June 14, at 1:00pm in our sanctuary. The service will be followed by a fellowship lunch reception in the Morgan Building. Please bring a favorite dish to this meal and celebrate God's blessings of marriage with this fine couple.

**Hannah Presnell**, daughter of Molly and Wesley Presnell, and granddaughter of Earl and Betty Townsend, is graduating from UNC-Asheville with a double major in psychology and literature. Congratulations Hannah!!

We also extend congratulations to members of our extended church family who are graduating or celebrating other milestones.

Congratulations is extended to Ed Lail who recently retired. Look at that smile on his face!

## **Youth Activities**

Mark May 16 on your calendar as we will be going to Bo's in Lenoir for an evening of fun. Tickets for this event will be available from our youth and are \$10.00.

Check the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary for announcements and other postings.

Please let Denise Danner know if you plan to go on the retreat to Cherokee September 26-28. It would be helpful to provide her with \$20 per person to back the reservation of the rooms.

## **Prayer Concerns and List**

**Those in need of prayer for healing:** Mary Brittain, Bob Campbell, Elaine Church, Earl Johnson, Polly Miller, Earl Townsend, and Eleanor Windisch.

**Those confined to their homes:** Kim Church, and Nancy Townsend.

Kim Craig had surgery at Baptist Hospital where half of her liver was removed. The physicians are optimistic they got all the cancerous areas and Kim is now recuperating at the Shaire Center in Lenoir, room 307.

## **Schedule**

Sunday, May 4 & 18 – 10am Sunday school, 11:00am Holy Communion

Sunday, May 11 & 25 – 10am Sunday school, 11:00am Service of Word and Prayer

Friday, May 16 – Youth fundraiser at Bo's in Lenoir - 6-10pm

## **Birthdays in May**

14 – Jared Townsend & Daniel Chester

15 – Geri Townsend

19 – Macy Church

22 – Gracie Townsend

26 – Darrell Townsend

27 – Logan Yates

## Anniversaries in May

5 – Ed and Betty Welch

13 – Alma and Sherrill Johnson

11 – Ray and Tammy Townsend

21 – Matthew and Rachel Hamby

If anyone is missing from this list, please write the name and dates down and give them to the pastor. Also, please inform Pastor Mielke in writing of anyone who should be taken off the prayer list, those whose birthdays/anniversaries have been omitted, or if there are any celebrations which you wish shared with your Church family.

From time to time you find things which are meaningful to you and you may wish to share them with your Holy Communion family. Ed Townsend found this quote by the Seventeenth Century mathematician, scientist, and philosopher Blaise Pascal. Among other things, Pascal was the first to venture into the area of mechanical calculators. Like many of his time, Pascal thought that science and religion were at opposite ends of the pole; but he had a religious experience in 1654 and became a prominent religious philosopher. Pascal died at age 39.

*In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe  
and enough shadows to blind those who don't.*

*Blaise Pascal*

Hughie Johnson found this story quite meaningful and you will too.

*A wealthy man once took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days on a farm of what might be considered a very poor family. On returning from their trip the father asked the son how it was.*

*“Did you see how poor people live?” the father asked? “Yes,” said the son.*

*“So tell me, what did you learn?” asked the father.*

*“I learned that we have one dog and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.*

*We have servants who serve us but they serve others. We buy food but they grow theirs.*

*We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them.*

*The boy's father was speechless.*

*Then his son added, “Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are.”*

*Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? It makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.*

*Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your family and friends.*