

February 2019



*Welcome to Holly Grove Lutheran Church!*



LOVE GROW SERVE

# The Holly Leaf

## *Mission Statement of Holly Grove Lutheran Church*

*“As united people of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our purpose is to provide worship and Christian education, and respond in a loving action to a needy world.”*

• Daily Prayers, links, to ELCA , sermons, The Holly Leaf, events & more on our website:  
[www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org](http://www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org)

Find us on Facebook!



**Love. Grow. Serve.**



# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Council @ 7:00 pm	12	13 Seniors @ Mt. Tabor @ 10:30 am	14	15	16
17	18 Agape @ 6:30 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 LMiM @ 7:00 pm	26	27	28		

February 2019



**Altar Guild-** Kim Troutman  
**Mother's Rose Garden-** Micky Conrad in honor of Carol Conrad

---

3<sup>rd</sup> *Holy Communion*

**Assisting Minister:** Debbie Frank

**Communion Assistant:** Gary Hedrick

**Ushers:** Andy Ferguson, Gaven Ferguson, Harold Beck, Johnny Fritts, Robin Beck

**Altar Flowers:** Herb & Wendy Lohr-In honor of Jennifer, Whitney & Kara's Birthday

**Nursery Attendant:** Jordan Chapman

*Basket Offering:* The Life Center

**Acolyte:** Victoria Voletto

**Children's Church:** Jane DiBonaventura

**Children's Chat:** Tina Heitman

---

10<sup>th</sup>

**Assisting Minister:** Andy Ferguson

**Ushers:** Ty Heitman, Eddie Heitman, Gary Hedrick, Michael Willson

**Altar Flowers:** Etta Lee Conrad & Debbie Frank-In honor of Herbert's Birthday

**Nursery Attendant:** Carol Conrad

**Acolyte:** Gracie Ferguson

**Children's Church:** Tina Heitman

**Children's Chat:** Pastor

---

17<sup>th</sup> *Holy Communion*

**Assisting Minister:** Norris Feeney

**Communion Assistant:** Michael Wilson

**Ushers:** Bob Troutman, Rex Everhart, Keith Cecil, Dean Chapman

**Altar Flowers:** Micky & Carol Conrad-In honor of Conrad

**Nursery Attendant:** Jane DiBonaventura

**Acolyte:** Victoria Voletto

**Children's Church:** Susan Lohr

**Children's Chat:** Pastor

---

24<sup>th</sup> *Holy Communion*

**Assisting Minister:** Toni Chapman

**Communion Assistant:** Lori Cecil

**Ushers:** Max Carrick, Joe Davis, Lynn Dennis, Andy Ferguson, Gaven Ferguson

**Altar Flowers:** Chip & Ann Blower-In Honor of Our 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

**Nursery Attendant:** Monica Parsons

**Acolyte:** Nathan Baker

**Children's Church:** Jordan Chapman

**Children's Chat:** Pastor

---



## How toddlers are renewing my faith

### *How toddlers are renewing my faith*

Those who follow me on social media will realize that I am obsessed. It's our grandchildren—all four of them who have arrived in the past three years, and three of whom arrived in July of 2016 within a span of eight days. Honestly, I used to secretly believe that all the grandparenting hype—sharing pictures and telling stories ad nauseum—was way over the top. But now I, a past president of the Anti-Sentimentality Club, am in a whole new place. A bit of an uncomfortable yet wonderful place, to be honest.

As has been the case more times than I care to admit (and growing by the month) I was wrong. The joy of grandchildren, though it certainly hinges somewhat on the cuteness and sentimentalism factors, is about way more than that. It is for me, I'm realizing, a chance for an aging, white, male with tendencies toward worldly cynicism, to see the world once again through more innocent, hopeful, faithful eyes. And that, for me, has been and is a most blessed thing.

Both the Psalmist and Jeremiah claim that before we were formed/knit together in our mother's womb, God already knew us. (The same Hebrew verb that connotes such deep intimacy that it is used elsewhere as a euphemism for sexual relations, e.g., "Adam knew his wife, and she bore a son.") If that's so, then there is something about our deepest identity in God that culture and our own imagined sophistication weeds out. Somewhere, somehow, before the foundations of the earth itself, we already were in the mind and heart of the eternal God. Before the eternal Word that calls into being all things ("...and God said, let there be...") I was, you were already. That this word became flesh, as did we, is evidence that God continues to seek us out and desperately desires that we find our guide for living in the Christ who redeems us who IS that Word incarnate that creates us, redeems us, and calls us home.

I forget. But the toddlers, and I, through them, remember. One of our own children, at about the age our three grandboys are now (30 months), was with me a generation ago. In a dense fog, we took an exit ramp off of Interstate 85 and couldn't see a thing. We found out the hard way that it was a sharp curve ramp by going straight, going airborne, and landing in a muddy field. I jumped out into the mud to check on the child in the carseat in the back. His eyes were big as saucers and transfixed on the empty seat next to him. I kept saying, "Are you okay, honey?" Finally he said to me, "Daddy, look at the angel! ... What's the angel's name?" And finally, disappointedly, "Where did the angel go?" He continued that question until we got home and for weeks thereafter.

Did he see or experience something I could not perceive, or was it just a child's imagination? And why, precisely in a time of danger, did he claim to see an angel? I saw nothing, but I'm not sure that he didn't. In fact, I rather hope that he did, as one of those manifestations of what we proclaim to believe in, "all things, seen and unseen."



With the three toddler grandsons, in just the past three months we've experienced the following. I'm pushing a stroller with the twins and we're singing ABC's, and one abruptly stops and says most sincerely and urgently, "Opa, I need to be closer to my God!" Without missing a beat, the other twin echoes, "And I need to be closer to my Jesus!" And we talk for quite some time about how Jesus is with us, only to arrive back at the house and Twin 2 says, "Will Jesus be with us in our house?" "He will," I assure him. So he ponders a bit and asks, "Is that Jesus's car?"

Their cousin's dad went to wake the child on Christmas morning and said, "Merry Christmas! Did you know today is Christmas?" The child says, "Yeah! Did the Messiah come?" His dad says, "Yes, he did." The child says, "Where's his car?"

Now the little girl can't talk to us yet. She's almost eight months old. But as I hold her I wonder, "What do you know that I've forgotten? How can I keep you—how can you keep me—from forgetting?" I watch them and listen to them and sometimes, a place deep inside of me stirs, remembers something that's still there that, for whatever reason, I have worked a lifetime to cover up. Simple. Innocent. Known. Full of wonder. Held. Blessed. As is every precious child of God. And though I lose sleep and am worn out every time I'm with them, I am renewed, refreshed, and, regardless of what the future of mainline American institutional Lutheran Christianity might hold, I am hopeful.

God's got this. God's got me. God's got you. Now, to learn better how to pay attention.

Walking with you,

*Tim*

Bishop Tim Smith



# Trivia, Trivia, Trivia

## Fun Facts For February

February is the second month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The Romans originally considered winter a monthless period!

February is the shortest month and the only month with fewer than 30 days. February has 28 days in common years, and 29 days in leap years. In leap years, February is also the only month that ends on the same weekday it begins.

People born before February 19th are born under the sign of Aquarius. Those born on and after February 19th are considered Pisces. Their birth flower is the violet and the primrose, and the birthstone is amethyst. Amethysts symbolize piety, humility, spiritual wisdom, and sincerity.

### Some Events in February:

#### **February 2**

*Imbolc* is the festival of the lactating sheep. Seeds are blessed and agricultural tools are consecrated. Traditional festival activities include candle lighting, stone gathering, hiking in the snow, and lighting bonfires. Imbolc marks the halfway point of winter and is believed to be the origin of--

*Groundhog Day.* Punxsutawney Phil, a groundhog that lives on dog food and ice cream in a town library, is transported to Gobbler's Knob once a year. The United States and Canada await his forecast of how much longer winter will last.

#### **February 14**

*Valentine's Day*, a day commemorating love and affection, is celebrated in most countries by giving loved ones hearts, candy, and flowers. The US Greeting Card Association estimates that 190 million valentine cards are sent each year in the US. According to the Society of American Florists, over 110 million roses are sold each Valentine's Day in the US.

#### **February 20 (2012)**

*Presidents' Day*, celebrated in the United States, on the third Monday in February, is combined holiday, commemorating George Washington and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays.

#### **\*February is National...**

Embroidery Month

Chocolate Lover's Month (Hmmm. I wonder if this is somehow connected to Valentine's Day.)

Black History Month

American Heart Month

Pet Dental Health Month

Grapefruit Month

Blah Buster Month and

Return Carts to the Supermarket Month.

# February Birthday & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>James Palmer</i>	2 <i>Joann Black Meagan Murphy</i>
3	4	5	6 <i>BJ Coggins Cam McCollum</i>	7 <i>Alex Queen</i>	8 <i>Karen Beck</i>	9 <i>Myra Beck Herbert Frank</i>
10 <i>Brantly Bunton</i>	11 <i>Carol Conrad Kara Lohr</i>	12	13 <i>Tina Hedrick David Clark</i>	14 <i>Conrad Som- mer</i>	15	16
17 <i>John Michael Fritts Raven Hylton</i>	18 <i>Etta Lee Conrad Lateffa Dennis</i>	19 <i>Taylor Gabriel</i>	20	21	22 <i>Andy Ferguson</i>	23 <i>Nathan Rose</i>
24 <i>Michael Byerly Ben Gates</i>	25 <i>Jimmy Beck</i>	26 <i>Bonnie Hedrick  Chip/Ann Blower</i>	27 <i>Jo Ann Turner Tim Everhart Andy/Kristal Ferguson</i>	28		



**February 3rd : Audits.** These will start @ 1:30 pm. Please check the bulletin board in the hallway to see what time you are scheduled.

**February 9th:** Cemetery Marking Training @ 12:15 pm

**February 16th:** SiLLY will host the annual Valentine's Dance in the Fellowship Hall @ 7:00 pm.

**February 20th :** Worship and music will meet at 6:00 pm.

**February 24th:** Congregational Meeting after worship.

**Confirmation:** Classes @ First Lutheran at 4:00 pm.

**Holly Leaf News:** If you have information that needs to go into the Holly Leaf submit this info to the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Confirmation classes are every Sunday at 4:00 pm @ First Lutheran**



## HOLLY GROVE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Holly Grove Senior Citizens Club met Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The winter weather has taken it's toll with many of our members ill. There were 9 members present. As Myra Beck was unable to attend due to sickness, June Conrad was our hostess.

We had a short business meeting which included birthday wishes to Jane Smith and Myra Beck, who will have Birthdays before our next meeting.

Jan Watkins led the devotions which was inspired by Psalms 4:13. The program Jan presented was from a book published by the Davidson County Schools in June, 1993 entitled: "Davidson County Schools: A History 1843-1993.

The group heard about the 8 area schools that dated back to the 1800s which consolidated to become Davis Townsend which opened in September, 1930.

Those schools were Holly Grove Academy and School; Hedricks Grove Academy and School; Burkhardt School; Sandy Grove School; Cedar Grove School; Embler's Grove; Young's School; and the Curry School. Our members participated through-out the entire program with family history and fond memories of the interesting contents of the book.

June served a breakfast casserole, cheese and crackers and a fruit salad.

Our next meeting will be February 13, with Carolyn Grubb and Sarah Leonard.



Parents and Grandparents,

Apart from the faith of parents, a recent ELCA study by Dr. Jacob Sorenson finds that a week of Christian Camp is the most important contributor to a child's faith formation to ensure they will continue to be active in the life of the church. The study found that campers experienced real and identifiable changes in their Christian faith during these camp experiences. If you would like more information on the "Effective Camp Research Project," go to [vibrantfaith.org/effectivecamp/](http://vibrantfaith.org/effectivecamp/).

I am convinced that this is true, and we are fortunate that NovusWay Ministries and Agape Kure Beach Ministries offer three outstanding camps right here in North Carolina to help youth grow in their faith- Lutheridge, Lutherock, and Camp Agape. I am writing today to encourage you to send your child(ren) to camp this summer.

I know that there is a huge list of demands on kids' time in the summer. They have sports camps, family vacations, jobs, and so many other options on how to spend their summer. Because we believe faith is important in the development of our young people, though, I hope you will also invest in faith camp for your kids. At Lutheridge, Lutherock, and Camp Agape we have access to three great and diverse programs. Their staffs are full of Christian spirit, and programs are extremely well run and safe. Opportunities are available for youth who have finished grades 1-12. Summer brochures are available in the church narthex, and you can always find more information at [NovusWay.org](http://NovusWay.org) (Lutheridge and Lutherock) and [AgapeKureBeach.org](http://AgapeKureBeach.org) (Camp Agape).

I know that for many families, cost is a major factor. The church wants to help with this. We think it is so important that we will contribute \$200 to the cost of Lutheran camps for any young people who are Holly Grove members. In addition, the Lauren Cecil Youth Endowment is accepting applications from children who are Holly Grove members for an additional \$150 toward Lutheran camp attendance. And beyond all of this, all of the camps have scholarship money available. So there is no need to miss out on camp just because of the cost!

There are plenty of ways your child could spend their time this summer. But there is no more important activity to be involved in than a week of camp where friendships are made and strengthened, faith grows, and leadership develops in significant ways. I hope you'll sign up today! Just turn the registration confirmation in to the church office and we'll make sure we send in \$200 toward the cost. Register now for the lowest rates before the cost goes up in March!

God's Peace,

Pastor Matt

p.s. Each camp has a Facebook page that is full of pictures to help you get a sense of how wonderful a week at camp can be!



## Please pray for:

### *Our Members:*

- Burnette Monteith
  - The Family of Jane Brown
  - Harold Rose
  - Lydia York
  - John Curry
  - Lydia Rose
  - Sheila Hanes
  - Gary Hedrick
  - Sue Anderson
  - Bill Roberts
  - The Family of Barbara Black
  - Jo Ann Turner
- Barbara Gaultney



### *Our Friends & Family:*

- Billie Allred
- Gracie Hedrick
- Wayne Charles-Friend of Herb Lohr
- Eddie Wray-Friend of Herb Lohr
- Tommy Wrenn-friend of Bonnie Hedrick
- Kathy Owens-Sharon Everhart's Sister
- Noah Byerly-friend of Sharon Everhart
- Kevin Stewart-Robin & Karen Beck's son-in-law
- James Church
- Tyler Whitley-Lateffa Dennis' cousin
- Robin Sink
- Dean Fowler
- Tony Roberson-Friend of Herb Lohr
- Gary Helms-Gaynell Davis cousin
- Becky Aycoth-Gaynell Davis cousin
- Joanne Koonts-Gaynell Davis cousin
- Vince Tulizzotto-Friend of Herb Lohr
- Walter Lohr
- Marty Snider
- Scotty Rhodes
- Tyler Thompson
- Ed Tucker-Carolina & Paul's Son-in-law
- The Family of Grace Spainhour
- Our service men and women all over the world
- Those unemployed, looking for work





Thank you to the family of Vivian Lopp for sharing these beautiful flowers with Holly Grove. We remember her with much fondness.

Holly Grove Lutheran Church  
212 Holly Grove Lutheran Church Rd  
Lexington, NC 27292  
336-249-2807

[www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org](http://www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org)  
office: [hglcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hglcoffice@gmail.com)

**Sundays**

915AM Sunday School  
1030AM Worship



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.