

Sunday School will resume on April 12 and the children will be studying the Fruit of the Spirit.

Thank you to all who bring your children to our time of

learning.

### God's Eden schedule for April:

- April 5: EASTER No Sunday School
- April 12: Art
- April 19: Drama
- April 26: Cooking

#### **Children Church leaders for April:**

April 5: Trudy Whitener + Helper

April 12: Shelia Kelly + Helper

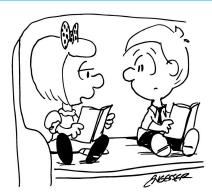
April 19: Tracey Nault + Helper

April 26: Judy & Mollie Caldwell

Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 am-Noon for children Ages 2-Grade 5. Bring your Easter baskets and have fun! Lunch served. Contact Misty Koehler at mistykoehler@gmail.com if you have any questions.

**HCY** meets on Sunday, **April 12** from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm. Details to follow.

#### Beth Brittain, Christian Education



"No, Peter Cottontail was not an apostle!"

## ELCA Malaria Campaign



**Starting Palm Sunday and continuing every 5**<sup>th</sup> **Sunday of a month**, the kids of Holy Comforter are taking part in something called "noisy offering," where those worshipping with us donate their change as the kids collect it in cans they've decorated. I wanted to fill you in a bit about the *ELCA's Malaria Campaign*.

## A child dies from malaria every 60 seconds.

"We are in a special moment to help turn this around. Since the start of the *ELCA Malaria Campaign*, ELCA members and our companions overseas have already seen a reduction in the number of deaths from this preventable, treatable disease. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. Working through Lutheran partners in Africa, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to help provide mosquito nets, education, testing, medication and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease — for good."

"The ELCA Malaria Campaign works with companion churches and Lutheran partners in 13 African countries." "The ELCA Malaria Campaign has a goal of raising \$15 million by the end 2015. Thanks to the efforts of individuals, congregations and synods, the ELCA has raised over \$13.5 million dollars to date."

Learn more at: <a href="http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA">http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA</a>
-Malaria-Campaign

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter COMMENT

216 N. Main Street P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor Dianne Lail, Communications



<sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11: 26

## **Communion Opportunities for April**

April 2 Maundy Thursday

April 5 The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 19 The Third Sunday of Easter (April 12 & 26th after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager Volume 36, No. 4 SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am The Service Church Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30 am—3:00 pm





Grace and peace,

We are an Easter people. What I mean by that is that we are a people who live our lives with the knowledge of Jesus Christ having risen from the dead, and that changes the way in which we see the world and live as Christians in it.

Knowing the Easter story, the climax of scripture, the point to which all of scripture crescendos, enables us to see God as immeasurably faithful to God's people. Despite the people of God's unfaithfulness, God remains faithful to God's people and continually has worked to redeem them, us, from lives of darkness to live lives in the light of Christ. Knowing this scriptural truth enables us to rest assured of God's faithfulness to us despite our sinful missteps and mistakes. We do not live in fear of judgment, but live freed for joyful service and proclamation.

We also live with the faith and hope that God brings life from death, just as God brought life to all of creation through the death of Jesus Christ. I recently heard a quote, and I hate that I do not know to whom to attribute it, but it was that, "we do not know enough about the future to not have hope." I thought this was a wonderfully optimistic outlook for the future. But as Christians, the greater truth is that we do know enough about God to have hope; that even from the midst of chaos and death. realities with which we live. God brings life and joy. This is true on an individual level, as we wrestle with challenges in our own lives, as well as a global and cosmic level.

So firstly, where are the places that seem like death for which we pray for God to breathe life? Secondly, as the Body of Christ in the world and workers in God's kingdom, where are the places in the lives of our neighbors and around the world where God is calling us to be the bearers of new life? I have witnessed many hands of this congregation being the hands of God. offering that hope of life and joy in the midst of chaos and death in the life of their neighbors. The children of the church are teaming up with one way the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is answering that call, collecting change through the "noisy offering" they are starting up and donating it to the ELCA's Malaria Campaign. This is a very real way that these kids are living out their faith in a God who brings life from death, as we proclaim this Easter season.

### Yours in Christ, Pastor Micah

John 12:24-"Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."





SYNOD NEWS: The Rev. Dr. Leonard H. Bolick, Bishop of the NC Synod-ELCA since November 1996, will retire this summer. This synod is truly blessed to have had the strong, effective and devoted leadership of Bishop Bolick for the past 18 years. A *Godspeed Celebration* will be held in Bishop Bolick's honor on April 25 at St. John's in Salisbury. Everyone is invited!

For folks who wish to know more: http://www.nclutheran.org/about/bishop-transition.php

### **CHURCH SCHEDULE:**

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm Worship Service w/Holy Communion

Friday, April 3 Good Friday 7:30 pm Worship Service

Saturday, April 4

10:00 am-Noon *Kids' Club* + *Easter Egg Hunt*Sunday, April 5 Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter

7:00 am Sunrise Service

Breakfast after the service
No Children's Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Tuesday, April 7

7:00 pm Property Committee meeting

Saturday, April 11

5:00 pm Staying Connected

Sunday, April 12 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service, Council meets after

5:00 pm HCY Tuesday, April 14

12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch

Bring Bible & Potluck or Sandwich

Saturday, April 18

8:30 am **Confirmands** carpool

Sunday, April 19 3rd Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Sunday, April 26 4th Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am The Service

#### **REGULAR MEETING TIMES:**

**Sundays:** 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

 Report for Month
 February
 Year-To-Date

 Budget Expenses:
 \$19,925.83
 \$39,851.87

 Actual Expenses:
 18,181.74
 38,921.51

 Offerings Received:
 17,443.95
 37,895.96

 Gain (Loss) for Period:
 (\$ 737.79)
 (\$ 1,025.56)

#### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Chief Lector

April 2 & 3: Julia Gunter April 12: Jim Buell

April 26: Volunteer Needed

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)
Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain

Courtney Gatlin Stephanie Hinson

Tracey Nault

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**: (Team A)

Donna Bean Shelia Kelly Jo Singleton Jack Tench

#### **EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**

April 2 (Maundy Thursday): Paul & Tracey Nault

April 5 (Easter): Phil & Carol Posey April 19: Rochelle & Danny Potter

#### **GREETERS:**

April 2: Sherry Alexander April 3 & 5: Kathy Graves

April 12, 19, & 26: Louise Day & Brenda Daly

**TELLERS:** Rochelle & Danny Potter

**USHERS:** Volunteers

#### **FLOWERS:**

April 5: Myra & Bill Hollar April 12: Both vases available

April 19: Dean Burwell Baakko Family

April 26: Both vases available

**NURSERY:** (9:30 am-11:45 am) April 5: Volunteers Needed

April 12: Jill Cassel & Tom Bocchino

April 19: Veronica Bryant April 26: Jill & Kaylin Leitner The *Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship* available to the members of Holy Comforter.



**The Lillian E. Lineberger** Scholarship was established

as an endowment by Mrs. Lineberger to the congregation to reinforce students of the church in their learning and in the accomplishment of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Her hope was that this bequest would help improve your lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others.

The awards will be made once a year from the interest accrued on the endowment. That amount will be distributed equally among accepted applicants who must apply the funds toward tuition or books. Checks will be made out to the applicant's school.

To apply, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a member of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter for at least one year
- Participate in Communion and contribute to the church during the time you are receiving the grant
- Submit the following by the deadline of April 24<sup>th</sup>:
  - 1. Your completed application
  - 2. A transcript from your most recently completed semester
  - 3. A typed essay (at least one paragraph) describing yourself, career plans, and life goals

The Scholarship Ministry, authorized in January, 1996, by the Church Council, will review your completed application. You will be notified of acceptance of your application in mid-May and an announcement will appear in the church newsletter. To have other questions answered, please call the church office.

You may request an application form via email from the church office by filling in *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. Send your request to holycomforter@gmail.com.

All completed applications along with the required transcript and typed essay must be returned to the church office by the April 24<sup>th</sup> deadline. Any received after this date will not be considered. Send your request to holycomforter@gmail.com.

Best wishes to you in your educational journey.

Carmen De Nicholas,
Scholarship Ministry





It is time to start planning for summer camp. Holy Comforter

is hosting *Camp Agape* July 13-17. *Agape* is a day camp for **rising 1st to rising 8th graders** and is sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries

This year we will again include 6th-8th graders. The kids in this age group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

Misty Koehler, Holy Comforter Camp Coordinator



The 26th Annual Congregational Retreat to Isle of Palms, SC is Thursday April 30-Sunday, May 3. Some have been planning this event for nearly a year. The highlight, in spite of the water view of the Atlantic Ocean, is the fellowship; a wonderful opportunity to renew with family and friends. The retreat concludes with an informal service of worship following Sunday breakfast. If any wish to be on a waiting list, should a last minute cancellation occur, contact Greg Cline.

The members of the children's ensemble have had an educational experience this winter and spring. Lots of new songs; even already looking at a song or two which will be utilized within our evening prayer liturgy next Advent. The children are teaming up with adult choir members in presenting the offertory anthems on both Palm Sunday and Easter 10:30 services of worship. Thanks to all the parents for supporting this ministry. Despite more than busy schedules, they bring their children consistently to Sunday afternoon sessions.

Beginning on the first Sunday after Easter we will begin a 3-week series where the children will begin learning the basics of musical notation. While some children may be exposed to reading music, it is my understanding that this is usually not taught any more in the elementary school systems. So, bring your child, and join us if you would like to learn.

Special thanks to all of our adult musicians who give so faithfully in sharing time and talent. The choir led the assembly for over a month through Lenten Evening Prayer, not to mention all of our services of worship throughout the year. We added orchestral accompaniment this year using guitar, flute, and strings. We now prepare for Holy Week and Easter. The handbell ensemble will also share musical offerings during Holy Week and Easter. A busy time, but so blessed by this ministers.



Five members will represent Holy Comforter during music week at Lutheridge this July. Preston and

Winston Baker, Eva Kline, Elizabeth Bruchon, and Greg Cline will all be in attendance for an entire week. Congratulations to these folks who received partial scholarships to attend.

Greg Cline



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm Worship Service w/Holy Communion	Good Friday 7:30 pm Worship Service	4 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am—12 Noon Age 2—Grade 5 Egg Hunt, prizes, fun! Lunch served Bring your Easter baskets.
5 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Sunrise Service Breakfast After No Children's SS 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC & Flowering of the Cross 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	6	7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	8	9	10	Staying Connected Go to Ronald McDonald House to cook dinner for the families staying there. Contact Misty Koehler for details.
12 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Council meets after 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm HCY 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	13	7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	15	16	17	18
19 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	20	7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	22	23	24	25
264th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	27	7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	29	30		

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of April. We are thankful for the life and Spirit of those we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.

April 1 Barbara Kasmer

**April 3 Garrett Carpenter** 

**April 4 Sherry Alexander** Sandra Cline Myra Hollar

April 5 Angela Baakko Taylor Buchanan

April 8 Shirley Causby

Fran Holland

April 10 Bryan Fleming

**April 11 Matthew Mitchell** 

April 12 Elizabeth Burwell Kristen Williams

April 15 Nick Alverez

April 16 Misty Koehler Debbie Neagle

April 19 Jake MacDonald

April 23 Tim Baker

April 24 Mark Kline

April 25 Julia Gunter

April 27 Claire Heilig

April 28 Joseph Mitchell Rita Stewart

Susan Woodcock

April 30 Deb Williams

NOTE: If we have unintentionally left any member's name off this list, or if there are any errors, please call the church office.

