



Sunday School for children continues through May 24.

We will take a break in the summer and will resume in the fall.

Thank you to all the teachers who have helped this year!

God's Eden schedule for May:

- May 3: Computer - Carmen De Nicholas
- May 10: Games – Ashley Ange
- May 17: Video – Jill Leitner
- May 24: Bonus session—Beth leads

Children Church leaders for May:

May 3: Brandy Milton + Helper
May 10: Tom & Melissa Bocchino
May 17: Carmen De Nicholas & Natalie Hullander
May 24: Maria & Madison Carr
May 31: Beth Brittain

HCY meets on Sunday, **May 10** from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Weather permitting, there will be a scavenger hunt downtown Belmont followed by Bible study and dinner! Moms and friends are invited.

Kids' Club meets at **1:00 pm on Saturday, May 16** for fellowship & fun at Davis Park in Belmont.

Beth Brittain, Christian Education



Our church choir welcomes 4 new members to our music family. All of these folks “officially” joined the congregation in April. Fritz Faust, Bonnie Faust, and Beth Washle have been a part of the ensemble since January. Jo Irwin attended her first rehearsal in late April. We welcome these singers, who all are such valuable assets to the music program here at Holy Comforter.

Our choirs will continue to lead services of worship during the month of May, and throughout the summer months. Opportunities for vocal and instrumental solos, duets, and small group ensembles abound. Contact Greg Cline if you are willing to share your God given musical talents. God loves a cheerful giver...don't make us come after you!

Our church retreat to *Isle of Palms* concludes on May 3. Following a fellowship breakfast we gather for closing worship before returning home. This is the 26th year for this event. The retreat is open to any member of Holy Comforter. Google: *Coastal Retreat Center Isle of Palms*, for details.

Thanks also to members of our chamber, handbell, and children's ensemble ministries. All of these groups have abundantly shared throughout the year. The children's ensemble ministry has been blessed with parents and guardians who have been supportive not only with transportation needs, but also with coordinating busy family calendars. I personally wish to thank Beth Brittain who has assisted this past year. What a blessing you all are!

Greg Cline



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Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications



When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:1, 3-4

Communion Opportunities for May

May 3 The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10 The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 24 The Day of Pentecost
May 31 Holy Trinity Sunday



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 36, No. 5

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,

On April 26 we welcomed 28 new members as part of Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter. 28 new members is without a doubt something to celebrate as a congregation, but we must look beyond simply the numbers to recognize why we celebrate.

A congregation that is only focused on the numbers is often a congregation that is dying, even if they have a lot of members. What I mean by this is that when a congregation becomes too focused on the number of members they have, they become much less focused on the ministry to which they are called. The work they do becomes more about attraction, and the ministry that we are called to as the body of Christ suffers. The true life of a congregation has to do its spiritual well-being and life of faith, not the number of people present on a Sunday morning.

However, I believe that congregations that are committed to the work of God’s kingdom, of caring for and supporting one another, of welcoming visitors as part of the family, of works of justice and mercy in the world, and worship of our Lord, are attractive. People see the passion and sincerity with which the community of faith does this work, and they see Christ’s presence within the community. We continue to work to live into our baptismal calling more and more as a congregation, just as we do as individuals (a process called sanctification), but receiving new members can certainly be an affirmation of Christ’s presence in this community.

If we were baptized as infants, our family makes promises concerning their

raising us in the faith. In Confirmation, we affirm that baptism, and claim that as we grow into adults we want that faith as our own. In the sacrament of baptism, the congregation makes promises to pray for us and support us in our lives of faith. We are bound together by our adoption as children of God and members of the body of Christ, and through the promises we make to those being baptized. As we welcomed our new members, part of that liturgy was an affirmation of our faith, and we made similar promises to them as a congregation.

While we, like every other congregation, continue to work to grow and change so that, day by day, we better represent Christ in the world, I truly believe the Spirit is alive and working through Holy Comforter. The Spirit is alive in the warmth and welcome given to those who are new to our community, through the way members walk with and support one another through trials of life, through the way we celebrate with one another in the joys of life, through the works God’s justice and mercy in the world, and through our coming together to worship our Lord.

So in welcoming these new members **we celebrate** not our increase in our membership roll, but **that the Spirit is working in and through Holy Comforter as a congregation, and has called these new members to be a part of the mission that we share together, to proclaim Christ in the world through word and deed.** Let us continue to work to find new ways that Christ can be made known in our own lives, and in the world around us.

***Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah***

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Saturday, May 2 Staying Connected
6:30 pm Meet at church to carpool to Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q in Charlotte

Sunday, May 3 5th Sunday of Easter
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**

Wednesday, May 6
1:00 pm **Morning Circle** meets at church

Sunday, May 10 6th Sunday of Easter
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
Council meets after
5:00 pm **HCY** scavenger hunt, Bible study & Dinner. Moms invited.

Tuesday, May 12
12 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**
Bring Bible & Potluck or Sandwich

Saturday, May 16
1:00 pm **Kids’ Club** meets at Davis Park in Belmont for fun & fellowship

Sunday, May 17 7th Sunday of Easter
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
6:00 pm Church Choir practice

Sunday, May 24 Pentecost Sunday
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**

Wednesday, May 27
7:00 pm **Christian Ed** Meeting in fellowship hall

Sunday, May 31 Holy Trinity Sunday
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:
Sundays: 8:00 pm Nar-Anon
Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

| TREASURER’S REPORT: (Warren Heller) | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Report for Month</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>Year-To-Date</u> |
| Budget Expenses: | \$19,925.83 | \$59,777.50 |
| Actual Expenses: | 20,674.77 | 59,856.28 |
| Offerings Received: | <u>24,874.26</u> | <u>62,770.21</u> |
| Gain for Period: | \$ 4,199.49 | \$ 2,913.93 |

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
May 10: Andrew Bryant
May 17: Jim Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)
Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains
Donna Bean Susan Woodcock

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)
Fran Holland, Charles Mauney, Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:
May 3: Ashley Ange, Tyler Ange
May 24: Need Volunteers
May 31: Bev & Charles Mauney

GREETERS:
May 3 & 10: Debbie Neagle
May 17: Pat Long
May 24: Bill Hollar
May 31: Need Volunteer

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

USHERS: Need Volunteers

FLOWERS:
May 3: Mark & Rebecca Yount, Luke Via
The Bocchino Family
May 10: Dianne Lail
Carmen De Nicholas, Arden & Merritt
May 17: Bob & Denise Wiegand
Beth Brittain
May 24: Kathy Graves; *One vase available*
May 31: Danny, Rochelle & Carson Potter
One vase available

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am)
May 3: Misty Koehler
May 10: Ashley & Tyler Ange
May 17: Melissa Bocchino
May 24: Trudy Whitener & Tyler Ange
May 31: Need Volunteers

Dear Partners in Ministry,

With the beginning of a new season, you must be waiting eagerly to hear about the new happenings at Heritage Oaks. Following are the “Heritage Oaks Highlights” for March and April.

Participation in outdoor games has increased. Just being able to sit outside in the warm weather and to enjoy the flowers are both a treat and a blessing for the residents. In addition to the regular arts and craft activities, a sewing session was introduced in March. The special days with parties cannot be overlooked such as in March, St. Patrick’s Day. Before March 17th, there were crafts made for St. Patrick’s Day and then the party on the 17th.

Celebrating Easter was and is a blessing. So many churches and groups from different denominations have given these residents spiritual guidance. A special thanks goes to those who are part of our ministry and mission who provided time, talents and treasures in March and April – Ascension, Agape, Lutheran Chapel, St. Matthew and St. Paul’s –Dallas.

The traditional Easter fun activities were enjoyed-an egg hunt and a cookout –what a great time! What better way is there to enjoy the warm weather than eating ice cream on the designated ice cream day?

In March, Staff Appreciation Day was observed with a party.

The new blinds have been installed. So come by to see what a difference this has made.

Many thanks to all who have already supported our participation in the Community Foundation, Gaston County, Inc. “Run for the Money” campaign. Later, you will receive an official report.

WISH LIST: Resident room furniture needed ● Soup kettle warmer ● \$85.00 Remodel bathrooms
 (“adopt a john” by churches)

Edwina Beam, Board Member

ELCA Malaria Campaign



Every 5th 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. **This month we will collect on Sunday, May 31.**

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: <http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-Malaria-Campaign>



Tom Bocchino
will be teaching a course on
Being Lutheran
during the month of May in the
Seekers Classroom
each Sunday at 9:30 am.

All adults are welcome to join
in this time of fellowship and study.



HCY will meet
Sunday, May 10 from 5-7 pm.

Weather permitting, we will have
a scavenger hunt
(with cool prizes!)
around downtown Belmont,
followed by Bible study and dinner.
Since it is Mother’s Day,
bring your mom to see if she
can help your team win!

Christian Ed will meet
Wednesday, May 27
At 7:00 pm in the
Fellowship Hall.

All who are interested
are welcome to attend.



Share the Power of Hope
Celebrate the Senior Ministries of
Lutheran Services Carolinas

Share the power of hope. As Lutheran Services Carolinas celebrates its ministry to seniors during May, your congregation is invited to take part in this simple, yet meaningful, message of encouragement. Thanks to the support of congregations across North Carolina, LSC promoted the health and well-being of more than 2,800 older adults in 2014. Through its adult day services, care management, caregiver support, home care, and senior living communities, LSC strives to fill the older adults in its care with hope, peace, and joy.






The theme for LSC’s emphasis month, “**Share the Power of Hope,**” is inspired by the following verse from Romans 15:13: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Service is one of the many ways the church shares the power of hope and the Holy Spirit with others. On Saturday, May 9, congregations have the opportunity to share the beauty of spring and the power of hope with those served by LSC by participating in Blossoms of Hope. Congregations are invited to bring fresh flowers or plants to your local LSC ministry or participate in a landscaping project at one of these locations. This is a great service project for youth groups, Sunday School classes, or congregations as a whole! For more information, please contact Michelle Chaffee at mchaffee@LSCarolinas.net or (704) 603-1696.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support the work of LSC senior services, please make checks payable to Lutheran Services Carolinas and write “Senior Services Month” on the memo line. Contributions may be mailed to P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC 28145, or made securely online at www.LSCarolinas.net.

As LSC’s senior ministries are celebrated during the month of May, remember to lift up the older adults in your congregation. Thank you for sharing the power of hope and supporting LSC as it offers special programs to improve the lives of older adults!

May 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|-----|--|---|
| Remember Mom, May 10  | | | | | 1 St. Philip and St. James, Apostles  <i>Isle of Palms Church Retreat</i> → | 2 <i>Staying Connected</i> 6:30 pm meet to carpool to <i>Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Que</i> Charlotte, NC. Contact Misty with any questions. |
| 3 5th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC 8:00 pm Nar-Anon | 4 | 5 7:00 pm Nar-Anon | 6 1:00 pm <i>Women's Morning Circle</i> Meets at the church | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 6th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC 5:00 pm HCY 8:00 pm Nar-Anon | 11 | 12 12 Noon <i>Agape Lunch Bunch With Bible Study</i> Meets at the church 7:00 pm Nar-Anon | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16  Kids' Club 1:00 pm Meet at Davis Park in Belmont for fun and Fellowship. Contact Misty with any questions. |
| 17 7th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon | 18 | 19 7:00 pm Nar-Anon | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Day of Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC 8:00 pm Nar-Anon | 25  MEMORIAL DAY | 26 7:00 pm Nar-Anon | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Holy Trinity Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC 8:00 pm Nar-Anon | |  | In Germany and Austria the maypole (or <i>Maibaum</i>) is a tradition going back to the 16th century. It is a decorated tree or tree trunk that is usually erected either on 1 May or on the evening before. In most areas, especially in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Austria, it is usual to have a ceremony to erect the maypole on the village green. The custom of combining it with a village or town fete, that usually takes place on 30 April, 1 May or at <u>Pentecost (Whitsun)</u> , is widespread. | | | |

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of May. 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.

May 1 Katie Kessen
 May 2 Lucy Bocchino
 May 3 Sonja Kreitzer
 May 4 Darrel Rogers
 May 5 Thomas Bocchino
 May 7 Dianne Lail
 Alec Via
 May 10 Zac Hullander
 May 12 Jennifer W. Perez
 May 16 Sherry Perry
 May 21 Natalie Hullander
 May 22 Billy Joye, Jr.
 Arch Lineberger
 May 23 Chuck MacDonald
 Jennifer Miller
 May 24 Mandi Kline
 Denise Taylor
 May 25 Michael Jenkins
 William Kline
 May 28 Richard Fox
 Angie Koehler
 Dawn Mitchell
 May 29 Angie Morton
 May 30 Jonathan Baker
 May 31 David Daly
 John Zander



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