



A few years ago, I was at a retreat and I was learning about cross-generational activities. I learned about how to involve all ages in activities in church. My favorite activity was in the sanctuary, the leader said to go stand somewhere in the church where your favorite thing on Sunday happens. Some stood at the organ, some stood at the altar, some stood at the door. I decided to stand in the pew. One of my many favorite parts of worship is the passing of the peace. It is intentional time to share Christ's peace. I get to seek out individuals and I get to use their names, I like to use people's names. I like to shake hands and share God's reconciliation with others. Anyone can share the peace of Christ.

Last Sunday I was walking into church and Fran came up to me and asked me to serve as a communion assistant. I love that job. I don't do it often because I like to sit with the "rowdy section". I like to pass the peace with the kids and do other acts of worship together, I like to watch them worship. I love doing communion because you can use people's names and I like using people's names. I like it because we all come together at the table for ultimate reconciliation. So last Sunday I was helping in Children's church and at the end I was robing up to join the other worship assistants and the kids just kept asking what I was doing. I was trying to explain what I was getting ready to do when I was interrupted by a sweet voice asking if they could help. I answered with "sure, when you're older". We were on the altar getting ready to start communion when several people noticed that I was up there. Bella Ince said "oh hey! Its Beka". To me that's cool. It took nothing special for me to go up there and serve that way but Bella noticed and the kids wanted to do it too. I love how active our kids are with worship. I love to see Will Kline and Erin Cassel help with offering. I enjoy helping/watching Lucy Bocchino and Jack Bryant light the candles. Anyone can find a place to serve in worship and while

we don't always do it, I am just as filled by watching others worship in a way that serves too.

Speaking of serving others, we have some much going on in April. HCY continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. On the 23rd we will venture to IHOP. Kids Club is meeting on 15th for the Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am to 12 pm, lunch provided. VBS committee is meeting on April 2. Lastly Christian Education is meeting on the 27.



Join us June 25th – June 28th from 6pm – 8pm, for our Annual Vacation Bible School! This year we will learn how God created each of us through song, Bible discovery, games and the imagination station! We are in need of volunteers to help in many capacities through the evening activities. If you are interested in volunteering to lead a group of kids, a breakout session or help prepare a meal, please email Melissa Bocchino at melissa.bocchino@pwc.com.

Holy Comforter is hosting Camp Agape from July 17-21. The day camp for rising 1st – rising 8th graders has room for 25 campers, so register soon! Cost is \$130/camper and is due at time of registration. Registration forms available from Misty Koehler and in the narthex. Spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis. Contact Misty for any questions you have about camp.



Celebrate 100 years in style! Our centennial T-shirts will be on sale for \$15 each, now until Easter Sunday, April 16th. There will be unisex (S-3XL), ladies fit (run small, suggested to order one size up S-2XL), and youth (S-L) sizes available. Sign up with Katie Kessen after church. Money will be due at time of order; checks be made out to Holy C need to indicate "T-shirts" in the memo. Proceeds from t-shirt sales will go towards the planting of our anniversary tree!



Lutheran Church of the

Holy Comforter COMMENT

216 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012

704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office



⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Matthew 21:9



Communion Opportunities for April

April 9: Palm Sunday

April 13: Maundy Thursday

April 16: Easter Sunrise (7:00 am), Regular (10:30 am)

April 30: Third Sunday of Easter

(Communion on other Sundays after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 38, 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



Pastor's Page

Grace and peace,

Many of Paul's letters to churches with whom he has worked begin with his giving thanks for them and their ministries. For instance, in 1 Thessalonians Paul writes, "We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." When I first started studying scripture I would read these sections and think of them as a formality, a literary necessity when writing to someone. I saw some general theology as well, giving thanks for those who are in mission in Christ with Paul and the Apostles, recognizing our work as a communal one. Being in ministry with you all has greatly deepened how I read those simple introductions by Paul.

Recently on a Sunday morning as I was leading worship I looked out over the congregation and was deeply moved as I looked at all of your faces singing a hymn together. I began to think about all of the stories I've learned about your lives since I have been here. I began to think about the things that folks are celebrating, as well as the loss folks have felt in that time. I especially thought of all the love and compassion that you have for one another and for others, and I thought of all the time and effort you have put in to living that out in the congregation and beyond. And my thoughts went to Paul's introduction of his letters giving thanks for congregations, and I looked at his words with a new sense of sincerity, because I too give thanks to God for you all.

This month we celebrate Christ's resurrection at Easter, as we have as a con-

gregation for 100 years now. We celebrate that through Christ's resurrection we are brought into new life in the Kingdom of God. That life is good news for when we die, certainly, but that new life has already begun through our receiving it in baptism. For 100 years this congregation has been a place where that new life has been lived out, a life lived not for ourselves but for others as a witness to Christ's love for the world. We have lived it out in worship, in loving community with one another, and in caring for the world God made. I give thanks for Holy Comforter's 100 years of Easter witness, and look forward for many more to come with you all.

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

Harvesting connections within our community is a goal for Evangelism's monthly service project campaign and April brings a plethora of opportunities to do so!

- ♦ Invite friends who may not have a church to join our *Kids' Club* Easter Egg Hunt, April 15th
- ♦ Be a good steward to the earth and attend Belmont's annual *Earth Day* event, April 29th at Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park from 11-2. Make a stop at the *Holy C* tent to make bird feeders with the kids and learn what material you can "upcycle" into beautiful new things!
- ♦ And, lastly, volunteer to be a crossing guard at the *Belmont Criterium*, Belmont's largest bike race on Sunday, April 23 from 12-5:30 pm.



Other volunteer positions and sign up can be found here: <http://signup.com/go/wxhdW6>.

If you're interested in volunteering at any of these events, please ask a member of the Evangelism committee for more information!

Katie Kessen, Evangelism Committee

MUSIC NEWS

The **28th Annual Congregational Retreat to Isle of Palms** is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, **Thursday, May 25-Monday, May 29**. This is our family time to pray, reflect, relax, and unwind together.

Over 40 members and friends of Holy C are registered to attend. Easter Sunday we ask that everyone attending, please submit your checks in full. In this way we can more easily and accurately account for those attending. On Easter Monday unpaid rooms will be available for those on the waiting list, or submitted to the Coastal Retreat Center in order to fill vacancies.

Please make checks payable to: **Holy Comforter Lutheran**, with memo line "Coastal Retreat." **\$79 per night per room. 2-night minimum. Checks are non-refundable.**

Google: South Carolina Coastal Retreat Center for more info or contact Greg Cline.

The Lenoir-Rhyne University Choir and Brass Ensemble delighted the ear on March 12 presenting a hymn festival commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Holy Comforter coordinated through LRU to be the first host congregation in their spring tour schedule as we continue our year-long series of centennial celebrations. Our worship space sported not one empty pew. 50 students were shown hospitality by many wonderful families and friends of Holy Comforter. Folks grouped together and provided dinner for the choir prior to the concert. Afterward the students went home with many members for bed and breakfast before continuing



"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" Genesis 2:15.

Join the Stewardship Committee **Saturday, April 29th** at **Kevin Loftin Park** to celebrate God's garden and help guide others to take care of it!

The city of Belmont is hosting their Annual **Earth Day** celebration from 11:00 am -2:00 pm. We will have two tents again this year. Bring the kids for a great morning of learning and make a bird feeder at our craft table!



their spring tour across North and South Carolina. This was no small task for a congregation of our size. To so many of you who attended, financially supported, cooked, cleaned, provided housing, and assisted with so many acts of kindness, seen and unseen...**Thank You!**

All of our choir ensembles are busy with musical offerings being shared through the Lenten Season, as well as preparations for upcoming festivals of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Special words of thanks to members of our choir and instrumental trio who led the assembly during our Lenten Evening Prayer Services of worship.

Greg Cline



The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry

Applications for the 2017-2018 academic year are now available in the church office or via email. To receive an application via email, please email holycomforter@gmail.com and include *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. The office manager will send you an application that you can complete in Word. **The deadline for your completed application, transcript, and typed essay is April 30.**



Are you interested in knitting or crocheting?

Holy Comforter has a **Prayer Shawl Ministry** that needs your help. Many of our "knitters" are no longer with us, some having moved away.

We make these shawls to give to our members who are hospitalized to let them know they are wrapped in love and prayer. Our recipients are most grateful to our church for this ministry.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, call Beverley Mauney at 704-5597 or 704-813-3590 OR Debbie Neagle at 704-827-5263 or 704-460-1547.

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

Sundays: 10:10 am Church Choir prep
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Adult Handbells, 6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Thursdays, 1st & 3rd: 6:00 – 7:30 pm Girl Scouts

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	February 2017	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$24,511.17	\$ 49,022.33
Actual Expenses:	\$24,226.14	\$ 49,807.52
Offerings Received:	\$21,927.59	\$ 46,894.59
Gain (Loss) for Period:	(\$ 2,298.55)	(\$ 2,912.93)



Saturday, April 8

7:00 pm Meet to make "new member" and "graduate" gifts



Children ages 2 - Grade 5

will meet at the church on

Saturday, April 15 from

10:00 am-12 Noon

for an Easter Egg Hunt
Prizes, Fun & Lunch Served



Congratulations to the following congregational members on their recent achievements:

Carson Potter on being accepted into the University of South Carolina, Darla Moore's International Business School. The IB program has ranked #1 in the country for over 20 years.

Arden De Nicholas on achieving her 1st Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Shelia Kelly who has returned from a mission trip to South America.

Dianne Lail who was recently sworn in as a *Guardian ad Litem* (a child's advocate in court) for Gaston County.



BCO Items for April:

Oatmeal,
Rice & Jelly



CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Saturday, April 1 Holy C Sandwich Group

6:30 pm Home of Rebecca & Mark Yount

Sunday, April 2 5th Sunday in Lent

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

2-4:00 pm Confirmation at Redeemer, Gastonia

4:00 pm VBS Planning Meeting/Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 4

7:00 pm Property Committee meets

Wednesday, April 5

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner, 6:45 pm Lenten Worship

7:15 pm Chamber Choir

Thursday, April 6

6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

Saturday, April 8 Staying Connected

7:00 pm Make "new member" and "graduate" gifts

Sunday, April 9 Palm Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Council meets after

5:00 pm HCY meets

Thursday, April 13

7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday** Service w/HC

Friday, April 14

7:00 pm **Good Friday** Service

Saturday, April 15 Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 am-12 Noon Meet at the church, lunch served

Sunday, April 16 The Resurrection of Our Lord

7:00 am **Easter Sunrise** Service w/HC

Breakfast after

10:30 am Regular Worship Service w/HC

Thursday, April 20

7:00 pm Evangelism Committee meeting

Sunday, April 23 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

5:00 pm HCY to IHOP

Thursday, April 27

7:00 pm Christian Ed meeting

Evangelism meeting

Saturday, April 29

Earth Day Celebration in Loftin Park

Sunday, April 30

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector

April 14: Julia Gunter

April 23: Donna Bean

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain

Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Need 4 volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

April 9, 13, 16 & 30: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:

April 2: Pat Koehler

April 9: Carmen Buell

April 16: Pat Koehler

April 23: Becky Richards

April 30: Sue Lahr

TELLERS: Raini Kimball, Dennis Tucker

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

FLOWERS:

April 2: Jane & Jeff Howard

1 vase available (Call office to reserve)

April 9: Angie Morton

Jane & Jeff Howard

April 16: Bill & Myra Hollar (both vases)

April 23: Richard & Kay Holden

1 vase available (Call office to reserve)

April 30: Marsh & Jill Cassel

Dee Smith

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

April 2: Veronica Bryant

April 9: Jenn Kearney

April 16: Volunteers

April 23: Jill Cassel

April 30: Volunteers

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

A nursery is provided for infants and a separate nursery for the toddlers. Let an usher know if you need assistance.

APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTE: Chrismon Workshop April 23 at 4:00 pm At the home of Rebecca Yount	NOTE: Belmont Criterium Sunday, April 23 Noon-5:30 pm					1  Holy C Sandwich Group 6:30 pm Home of Mark & Rebecca
2 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service 2-4:00 pm Confirmation 4:00 pm Children's Ens. 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	3	4 7:00 pm Property Committee Nar-Anon	5 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 6:45 pm Lenten Worship 7:15 pm Chamber Choir	6 6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting	7	8  7:00 pm Meet in Fellowship Hall to make new member and graduate gifts
9 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC Council after 12 Noon 1st Communion class 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells, HCY 6:00 pm Church Choir	10	11 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	12	13 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion	14 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship	15 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am—12 Noon Age 2—Grade 5 Egg Hunt, prizes, fun! Lunch served 
16 Easter Sunday 7:00am Easter Sunrise w/HC Breakfast after No Children's SS 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am Easter Service w/HC	17	18 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	19	20	21	22
23 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children's Ens. 5:00 pm Handbells HCY to IHOP 6:00 pm Church Choir	24	25 St. Mark, Evangelist 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	26  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study Study of Revelation	27 7:00 pm Christian Ed meets Evangelism Meeting	28	29 Earth Day Celebration Kevin Loftin Park 
30 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 4:00 pm Children's Ens. 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 6:30 pm Youth/Parent Meeting						

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
 Michael Martin
 April 3 Garrett Carpenter
 April 4 Sherry Alexander
 Susan Clark
 Sandra Cline
 Myra Hollar
 April 5 Taylor Buchanan
 April 8 Shirley Causby
 Fran Holland
 April 10 Bryan Fleming
 April 11 Matthew Mitchell
 April 12 Elizabeth Burwell
 Kristen Williams
 April 15 Nicky Alvarez
 April 16 Misty Koehler
 April 17 Jody Flowers
 April 19 Jake MacDonald
 April 20 Carly Caldwell
 April 23 Tim Baker
 April 24 Mark Kline
 April 25 Julia Gunter
 April 28 Joseph Mitchell
 Rita Stewart
 April 30 Deborah 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.