

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 19, 2015

The Third Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: Fanfare on the Spanish Hymn: *Madrid* Traditional Melody

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism
as the presiding minister begins:*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Faithful and just God,

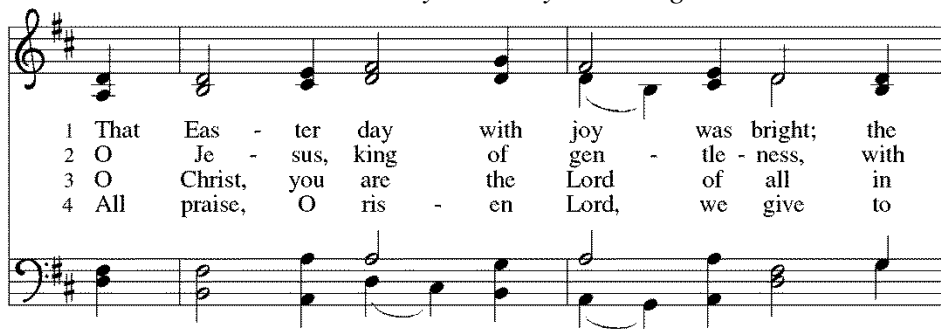
C we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

P In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright* All Stand & Sing



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

GREETING

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

SALUTATION

Presider: *Congregation:*

The__ Lord be with you. And__ al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Congregation is Seated and are invited to **sing “Jesus Loves Me”**
as the children come forward.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children’s sermon**. *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day.* Children **birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nursery**.

FIRST READING

Acts 3:12–19

A reading from the third chapter of Acts.

After healing a crippled man, Peter preaches to the people how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?

¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1–7

A reading from the third chapter of 1 John.

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children,

let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36–48

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.



⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *The Risen Christ* All Stand & Sing

1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand

from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,

un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,

and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952

Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949

Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.

Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church and its leaders, for those who witness to the risen Christ through speech or action, and for all children of God, that all be led to joy in the resurrection, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For stewards of creation, for farmers planting and ranchers tending to livestock, that the bounty of the earth provide for all who hunger or thirst, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who work to keep us safe: police officers and firefighters, military and international peacekeepers, local and national leaders; that God's peace and compassion come to us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the distressed, rejected, bereaved, sick, and frightened (*especially*), that support for them be close at hand, and that all experience the gift of healing, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this assembly, where the scriptures have been opened in our midst, that with boldness of heart we proclaim the joy we have in our new life in Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the witnesses of the faith who have died and are now at rest, that with them we have hope in the promises of the Author of life, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For these prayer shawls, in thanksgiving for the hands that have woven them, and that they might be a blessing for those that receive them, reminding them that they are wrapped in your loving arms and lifted in prayer by us, your servants, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *The Eyes of All Look to You* Unfailing Light

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *As The Grains of Wheat* All Stand & Sing

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain
 may we share the pres-ence of your love.
 all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al-so with
 you. *Presider:* Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We
 lift them to the Lord. *Presider:* Let us give
 thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* It is
 right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and'. The second staff contains 'might; heav - en and earth are filled with your'. The third staff contains 'glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fourth staff contains 'Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -'. The fifth staff contains 'san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P ... and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

THROUGH CHRIST

Congregation:
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Congregation:' and contains the lyrics 'Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the'. The second staff contains 'u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is'. The third staff contains 'yours, O God, now and for ev - er.'.



**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

P Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you."
C **Thanks be to God.**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
* you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

world:
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:
love:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Creating God* All Sing

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,
The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847
 Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray,

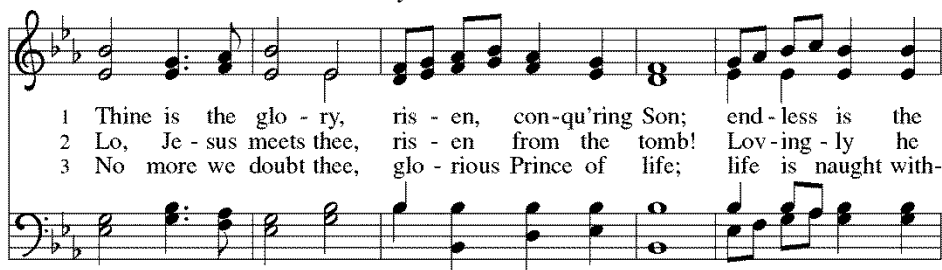
C We thank you, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have fed us in a way our hearts can understand, with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ. Enliven us by your presence in this meal, that we may be your presence in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

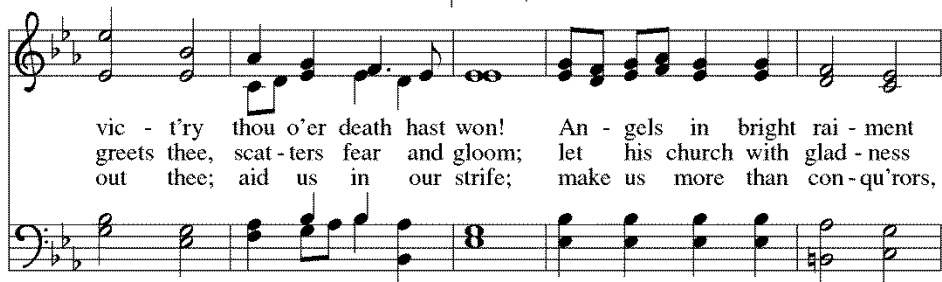
P May God the sower make you good and fertile soil. May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions. May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives. God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

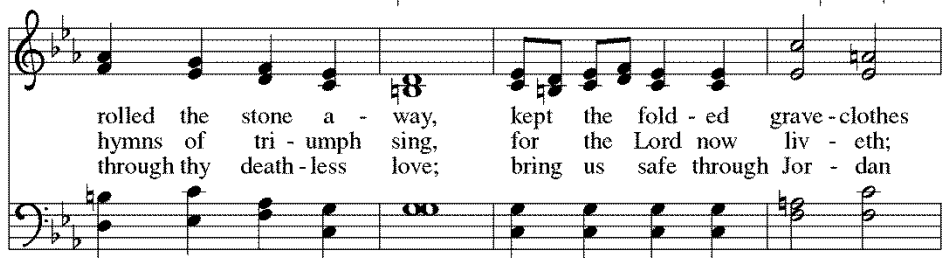
SENDING SONG: *Thine Is The Glory* All Stand & Sing



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

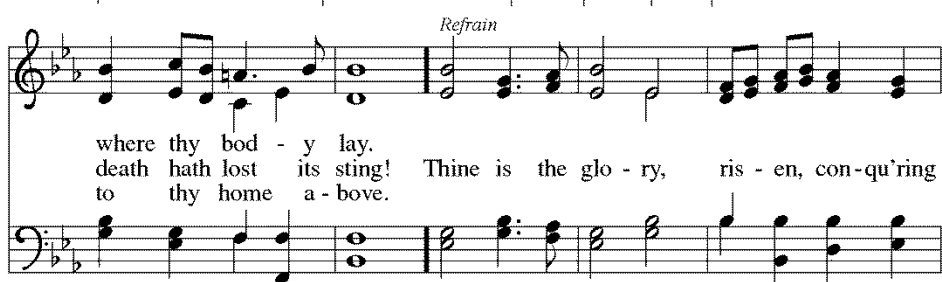


vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain



where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Third Sunday of Easter**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN are welcome in worship. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.

KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER: Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. **If you wish a name to be added to our prayer list, please fill out a form from the prayer book.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Dean Burwell in honor of Elizabeth's birthday; and by the Baakko Family in memory of Graham's heart donor.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music Committee

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: April 19-25

Today, April 19 Jake MacDonald
April 23 Tim Baker

April 24 Mark Kline
April 25 Julia Gunter

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETERS: Louise Day
Brenda Daly

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain
Courtney Gatlin Stephanie Hinson
Tracey Nault

TELLERS:

Danny & Rochelle Potter

USHERS: Need Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team A)

Donna Bean, Shelia Kelly, Jo Singleton, Jack Tench

FLUTE: Julia Gunter

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

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, April 19

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, April 21

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 12, 2015:

Attendance: 124

Budget Report

Current Offering Received 4/12/2015
Weekly Budgeted Expenses
Offering, Year-To-Date
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, Year-To-Date
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, Year-To-Date

April 12 2015

\$ 3,794.00
\$ 4,598.27
\$ 75,167.86
\$ 7,437.83
\$ 7,516.61

Time to sign up for *Agape Day Camp*!!
See Misty Koehler for details and application forms.



The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship application forms are due April 24th. Forms are available via email. Just email holycomforter@gmail.com and request an application form. You may fill in the form on-line, but must print it out so it can be signed by both student and parent/guardian.

Only those applications including the required transcript and essay received by the April 24th deadline will be considered.

Carmen De Nicholas, Scholarship Committee

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service
Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

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



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Daniel Dowd
Ferrie Hedrick
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Bill & Pauline Joye
Chase Lineberger
Rianna & Thomas Nance
Holly Peche
Mark Reese

Beverly Reynolds
George Roberson
Marguerite Shive
Dennis Tucker

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy
Harriett Ange
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Jamey Gardner
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Lewis Gilbert Family
Brian Hedrick

Eric Herdan
Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Lance Kirkland
Terry Mahaffey
Al McCoy
Mark Outlaw
Alicia Overton
Jean Peters
Beverly Howe Poag
Jim Poag

Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Julio Quiros
Anna Rudder
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Carson Thomas
Janie Thompson
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles
Alex Yount

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner



Dillon Kasmer

Alex Norris

Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.