

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 10, 2015

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Abide, O Dearest Jesus* ..... Go to page 8

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at 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.**

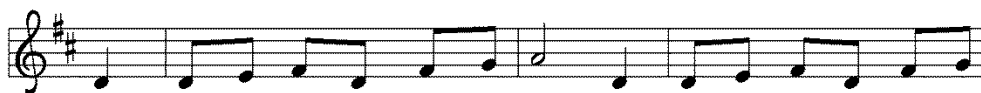
**Amen.**

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.

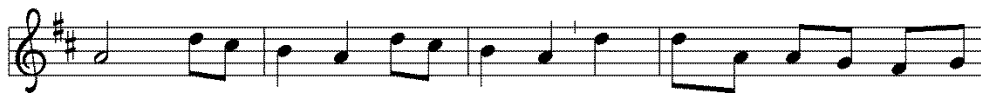
Let the perfect love of God cast out fear,  
fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High! . . . . All Stand & Sing*  
Verse 3 Women, Verse 4 Men



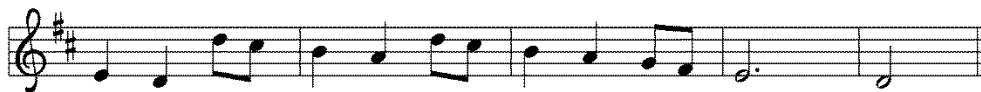
- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor  
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,  
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE

A



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



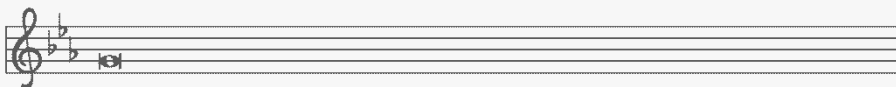
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

C



A - men, a - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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 10:44–48**

A reading from the tenth chapter of Acts.

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of*

*Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**1 John 5:1–6**

A reading from the fifth chapter of 1 John.

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL VERSE

Choir sings 1<sup>st</sup> time, Congregation sings on Repeat



## GOSPEL

John 15:9–17

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

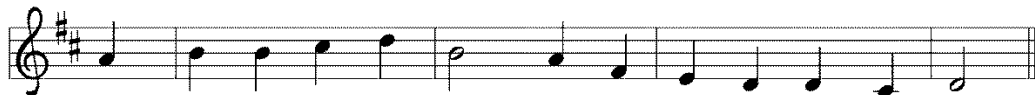
*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON . . . . . Pastor Micah

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Abide, O Dearest Jesus* ..... All Stand & Sing



1 A - bidē, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace,  
2 A - bidē, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your word  
3 A - bidē with heav'n-ly bright - ness a - mong us, pre - cious Light;  
4 A - bidē with rich - est bless - ings a - mong us, boun - teous Lord;  
5 A - bidē, O faith - ful Sav - ior, a - mong us with your love;



that e - vil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.  
and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.  
your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night.  
let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your word.  
grant stead - fast - ness and help us to reach our home a - bove.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923

Music: CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEIBEN, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

## 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 on earth, for those who proclaim the gospel, and for the ministry of congregations throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit guide all to love and service, for our children receiving first communion today, that through this meal of grace they might be strengthened in faith and assured of your presence in their lives, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For seas and fields, plants and animals, for the well-being of the earth, and for those who advocate for the just use of God's gifts, that all creation continue to thrive, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world, those who govern and those who serve, that leaders accomplish their duties faithfully and judge people with equity, let us pray

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick, the lonely, those who mourn, those afflicted with malaria, and those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*), that God provide them with compassionate caregivers, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For diverse families in all places, for mothers celebrating this day, and for all parents and caregivers as they teach their children to know and love God, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for helping Lutheran Services Carolinas share the power of hope with the older adults in its care. This ministry to seniors has been a blessing to so many families. Continue to guide the work of LSC as it does your work to enhance and enrich the lives of those who depend on its services, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for all the saints who have died in Christ, that their faithfulness to the gospel inspire us every day, 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.

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Beautiful Savior* . . . . . Solo

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Let The Vineyards* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.

## DIALOGUE

*Presider*

*Congregation*

The musical notation is presented in four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The first two staves are for the Presider (P), and the last two are for the Congregation (C).

*P* The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*C* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### PREFACE

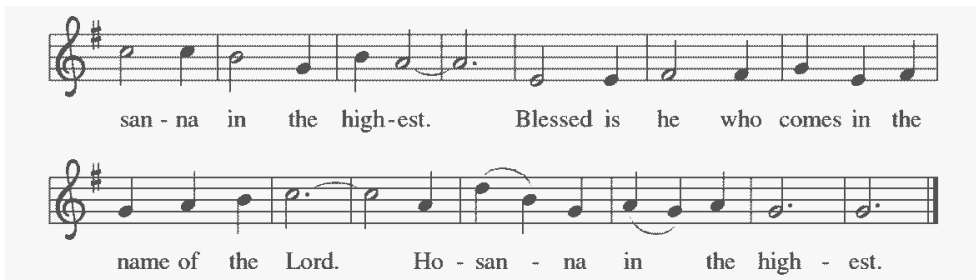
P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical notation is presented in two staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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



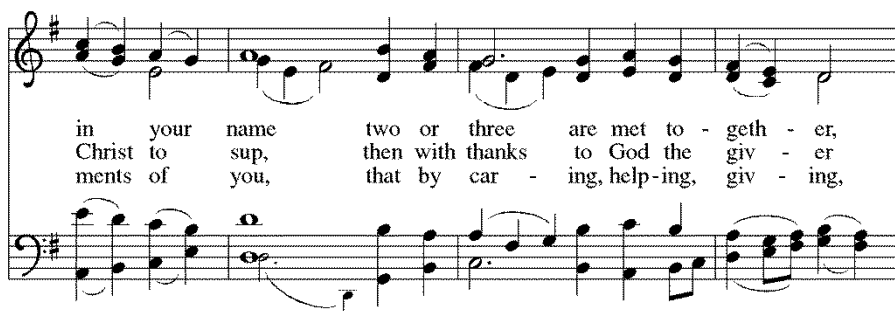
### COMMUNION

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

# MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Draw Us In the Spirits Tether* . . . . . All Sing



1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,  
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er,  
ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!  
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!  
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.  
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.  
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.  
Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958  
Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.  
Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

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

C Amen.

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C **Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

C Amen.

P Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

C Amen.

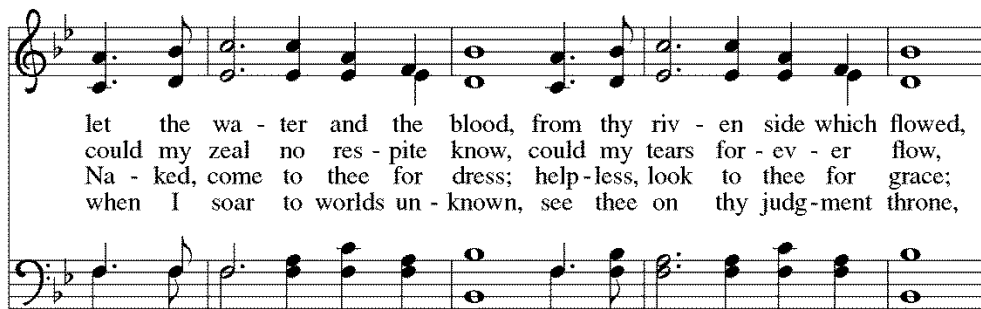
P God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

C Amen.

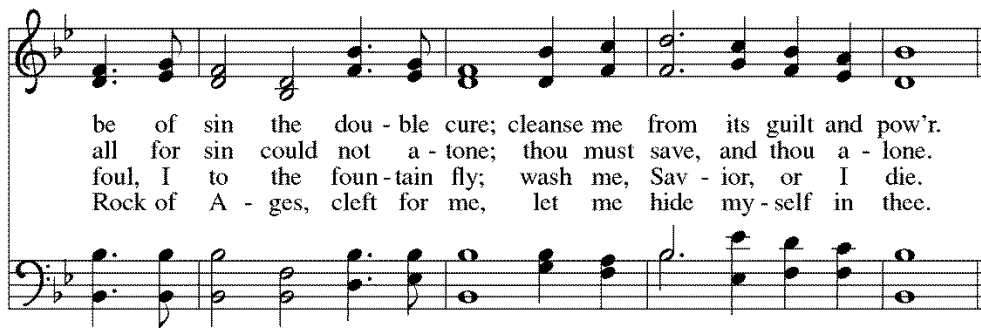
# SENDING SONG: *Rock of Ages* ..... All Stand & Sing



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778  
 Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

## 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 **Sixth 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 or fill in a form online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Dianne Lail in honor of her children, grandchildren and mother; and by Carmen, Merritt & Arden De Nicholas in honor of Dianne Lail's birthday.

**Those who have placed flowers on the altar** may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. ***Greg Byrum, Worship & Music***

**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, May 3, 2015:**

Attendance: 102



## **Budget Report**

**May 3, 2015**

Current Offering Received 5/3/2015	\$ 6,063.04
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,598.27
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)	\$ 89,769.90
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 6,460.80
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 8,101.28

## **HCY will meet today, May 10 from 5-7 pm.**

Weather permitting, there will be a scavenger hunt downtown Belmont (with cool prizes), followed by Bible Study and dinner.

Since it is Mother's Day invite your mom. Friends are always welcome.

## **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr., Andrew Bryant

**GREETER:** Debbie Neagle

**ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER:** Need Volunteers

**SOLOIST:** Beth Washle

## **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Tom & Melissa Bocchino

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

Ashley & Tyler Ange

## **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain

Donna Bean Susan Woodcock

**TELLERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly

**USHERS:** Volunteers Needed

## **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team B)

Fran Holland Charles Mauney

+ Volunteers

## **EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**

Need Volunteers

## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: May 10-16**

Today, May 10 Zac Hullander

May 12 Jennifer W. Perez

May 16 Sherry Perry



## **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

### **Today, Sunday, May 3**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**

5:00 pm **HCY** scavenger hunt

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

### **Tuesday, May 12**

12 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

### **Saturday, May 16**

1:00 pm **Kids' Club** meets at  
Davis Park in Belmont



## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin  
Nate Baakko  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Daniel Dowd  
Ferrie Hedrick

Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Bill & Pauline Joye  
Chase Lineberger  
Holly Peche

Mark Reese  
Beverly Reynolds  
George Roberson  
Marguerite Shive

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy  
Harriett Ange  
Paige Beaver  
Jenny Beer  
Father Frank Cancro  
Tina Capwell  
Clell Davis  
Jo Anne de la Vega  
J. Don Devine  
Zachary Evans  
Jamey Gardner  
Poss Garrett  
Ronnie Garrison  
Lewis Gilbert Family

Brian Hedrick  
Eric Herdan  
Stacy Hunsucker  
Dennis Jordan  
Steven Keating  
Marshall Kinley  
Terry Mahaffey  
Al McCoy  
Clay McCoy  
Mark Outlaw  
Alicia Overton  
Ramesh Patel  
Jean Peters  
Beverly Howe Poag

Jim Poag  
Taylor Propst & Family  
David Prouty  
Julio Quiros  
Parents of Teresa Rankin  
Anna Rudder  
Megan Sigler  
E. Taylor & Family  
Carson Thomas  
Janie Thompson  
Gloria Ward  
Pastor Gary Weant  
Olivia Wilcox  
Jeff Wiles

## 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](http://www.holyc.org).

**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager