Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 8, 2015

The Third Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

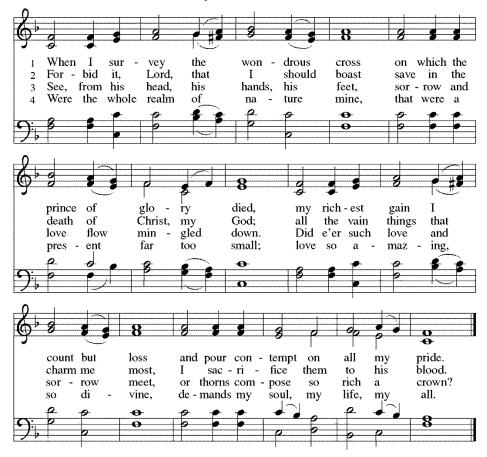
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Gracious God,
- C we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.
- P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.
- C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross All Stand & Sing



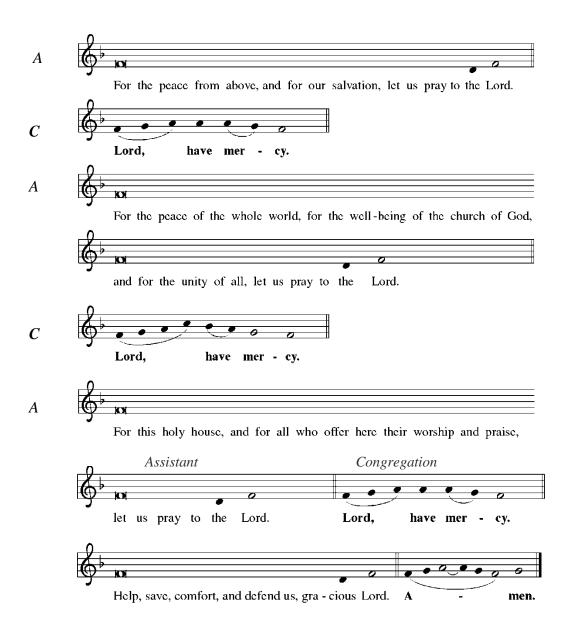
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

GREETING

P The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through 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 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 Exodus 20:1–17

A reading from the twentieth chapter of Exodus.

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The ten commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

- ¹⁵You shall not steal.
- ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Corinthians.

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

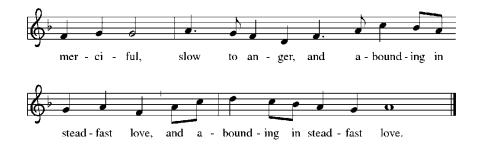
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL John 2:13–22

The holy gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house



will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah





My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
Text № 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for church leaders everywhere, that they be guided by your Spirit, preach the gospel faithfully, and lead a broken world into reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

^{*} catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

We pray for your creation everywhere: for the waters that nourish life, for vegetation that fills the earth, and for animals of every shape and species. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for missionaries everywhere, that they encounter the face of Christ and see your hand at work as they venture into new places and meet new people. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for hurting people everywhere, that they receive hope and healing. Be with those looking for work, battling addiction, mourning the loss of someone they love, or experiencing illness (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this worshiping community. Make us faithful companions to those preparing for baptism, marriage, or participation in holy communion, and prepare us to welcome newcomers in our midst. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Remember your covenant with us, and keep us faithful to your commandments until we join with all the saints around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

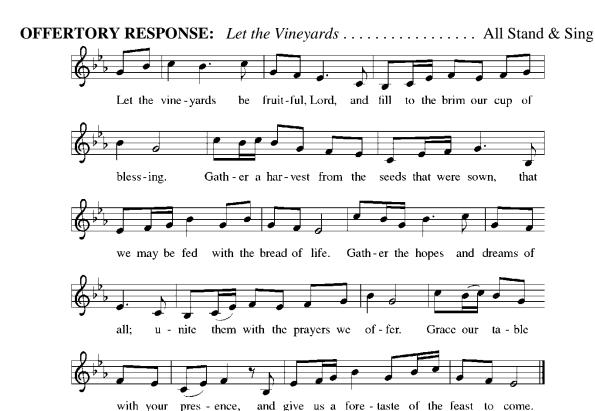
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music @ 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

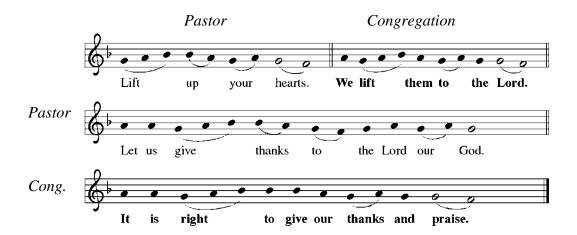
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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

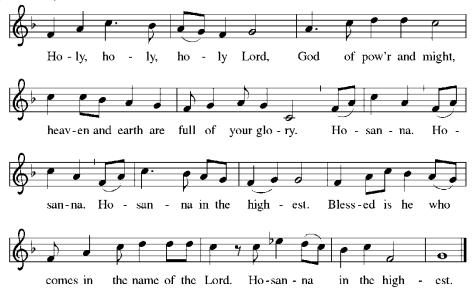




PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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,

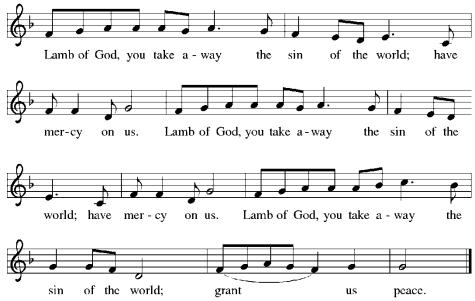
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.
- C Thanks be to God.

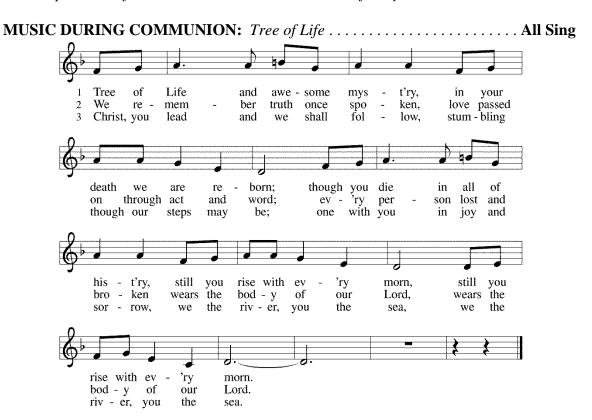


COMMUNION SONG



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.



4. Living Water of salvation,
Be the fountain of each soul;
Springing up in new creation,
Flow in us and make us whole.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P Let us pray.
- C Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

C Amen.



SENDING SONG: My Song is Love Unknown All Stand & Sing



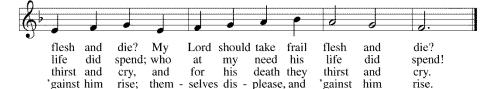
- 1 My song is love un known, my Sav ior's love to me,
- 2 He came from his blest throne, sal va tion to be stow;
- 3 Some-times they strew his way and his sweet prais es sing;
- Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



they might love - ly love - less shown, that love to the be. men made strange, and the longed-for Christ would know. but none sound-ing all day san - nas their King. the ho to made the lame run. he gave the blind their sight.



Oh. who am I. that for my sake my Lord should take frail oh, my friend, my friend in deed, who at my need his Then "Cru - ci - fy!" all their breath, and for his death they is Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they these them - selves dis - please, and at



5 Here might I stay and sing no story so divine! Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine. This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683 Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **Third Sunday in Lent.** 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.

<u>CHILDREN</u> 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 online at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Faye & Warren Heller in honor of Tommy & Shirley Causby and Greg Cline.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 1, 2015:

Attendance: 130

Budget Report	<u> Ma</u>	rch 1, 2015
Current Offering Received 3/1/2015	\$	6,200.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$	4,598.27
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$	44,145.95
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, Year-To-Date	\$	3,941.15
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, Year-To-Date	\$	3,639.18

SAVE THE DATE: On **Saturday, March 28**, we will have a **WORKDAY** at Holy Comforter. We plan to start at 8:30 am and work until finished with the projects which include landscaping the playground and cleaning the storage room.

Contact Will Howard or John Koehler if you can help. Sign-up sheet available.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. **GREETER:** Barbara Kasmer

ACOLYTE: Need Volunteer **CRUCIFER:** Need Volunteer

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS: **NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)

Ashley & Tyler Ange Tom & Melissa Bocchino

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Dian Halvorson, Co-Captain TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer **USHERS:** Volunteers Needed

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team C)

Sherry Alexander Courtney Gatlin Tracey & Paul Nault

Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: March 8-14

Today, March 8 Graham Baakko March 13 Raini Kimball March 10 Dee Smith March 14 Tyler Ange

Tracev Nault March 11 Tom Kasmer

March 12 Arden De Nicholas Nancy Powell

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir room 6:45 pm Lenten Worship

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Church Council meets

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm **HCY**

Today, March 8

Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, March 10

12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch

Potluck & Bible Study

7:00 pm Tellers' Meeting

Nar-Anon

Wednesday, March 11

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Chamber Choir after

Saturday, March 14

8:30 am **Confirmands** meet to

carpool to Resurrection

Lutheran, Kings Mt.

Sunday, March 15

Annual Volunteer Luncheon after

worship service. Bring side dish to

feed your family + 1.

Meat & drinks furnished.



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Brenda Dabrowski Daniel Dowd Ferrie Hedrick Faye Heller Dot Holland

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

Carol Posey Mabel Ratchford Family Mark Reese Beverly Reynolds George Roberson Marguerite Shive Dennis Tucker

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Pam Anderson
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

Eric Herdan
Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Lance Kirkland
Terry Mahaffey
Al McCoy
Dawn Mitchell
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
Gloris Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles

Alex Yount

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Brian Hedrick



Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer

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.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship is available to 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 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 24th:
 - 1. Your completed application
 - 2. 2. A transcript from your most recently completed semester
 - 3. 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 form the church office by filling in Lineber 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 24th deadline. Any received after this date will not be considered.

Best wishes to you in your educational journey. *Carmen De Nicholas, Scholarship Ministry*



Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Auxiliary Drive

The auxiliary enhances, supports, and strengthens the welfare and progress of the Southern Seminary community by providing non-budgeted needs through membership. Support the LTSS Auxiliary with your contribution to help with the following:

- 1. Spiritual support and guidance when needed, 2. Upgrades to student spaces on campus, 3. Summer Camp Scholarships for children of seminary students, and
- 4. Student aid for those who need financial assistance for their education.

Your contributions will be accepted on Sundays March 8th & 15th.

Make your checks payable to Holy Comforter with LTSS Auxiliary on the memo line. Place in the offering plate or give to an usher. The Seminary Auxiliary form is available in the narthex. For a gift of \$100 or more, you will receive a Life Certificate & pin from LTSS if you have filled in and mailed the form and your check to the LTSS Auxiliary (Address on the form).

Sunday School Attendance for March 1, 2015



	Children	Adults
Nursery	7	1
Pre-K	4	2
God's Eden	10	1
Seekers		9
Adult Bible Class		11
Totals:	21	24





The *Luthermen* is a new group that will consist of any adult male that is a member (or interested member) of the congregation at Holy Comforter seeking fellowship and opportunities for service.

If you are interested, please join us in the fellowship hall for breakfast March 22, 2015 at 8:30 (before Sunday school).

If you have any questions, contact Tom Bocchino at: tbocchino@hotmail.com or 704-616-3049.

If you are interested in this group and can join us for breakfast, please provide your information below. If you are interested, but can't make breakfast, please provide your information (and mark "N" for the breakfast column).

Name:	Y,N
Email:	Telephone:



For Sunday, April 5, 2015

Please place your Easter Lily Order by filling in the form below. You may then return the form to the church office or place in the offering plate. All orders must be accompanied by payment at time of order so that we can keep a proper accounting of your gifts and reduce the possibilities of errors. Please PRINT CLEARLY your name and the name of person/persons

you are honoring or placing the Easter lilies in memory of. **Deadline to place your order is March 22, 2015**.

Easter Lily Order Form				
Your Name:				
Telephone #:	Number o	f Lilies Ordered:		
In Honor Of:				
In Memory Of:				
To The Glory of God:				
	Paid Check 🗆	Paid Cash 🗆		

The cost of each Easter lily is \$15.00. Please make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* with notation on check that it is for Easter lily order.

If anyone has left dishes, serving platters, etc. in the church kitchen, please pick them up today or this week.

All remaining dishes, platters, etc. that do not belong to the church and have not been removed from the kitchen will be donated to Habitat.

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