# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 19, 2017

# The Third Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### WELCOME/GATHERING

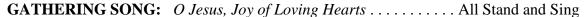
#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P In the name of the Father, and of the ± Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Merciful God,
- C you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.
- P Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C Amen.





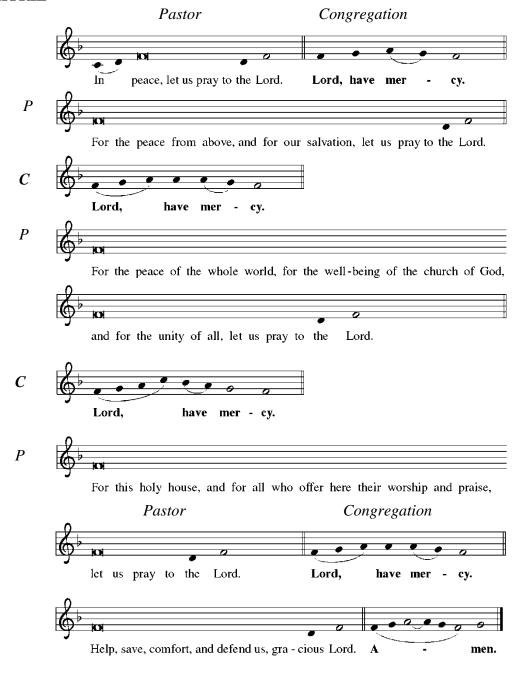
Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt. Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

### **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**



#### **SALUTATION**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 are invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

#### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Children ages 4 – third grade 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 nurseries.

FIRST READING Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of Exodus.

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put the Lord to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to the Lord. The Lord commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the

elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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



PSALM 95 . . . . . . Women sing Odd verses, Men Even

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,

and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns | of the earth; the heights of the hills are | also yours.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,

and your hands have molded | the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship | and bow down,

let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

8"Harden | not your hearts,

as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors | tested me,

they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,

'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore | in my anger,

'They shall never come | to my rest.'"

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the fifth chapter of Romans.

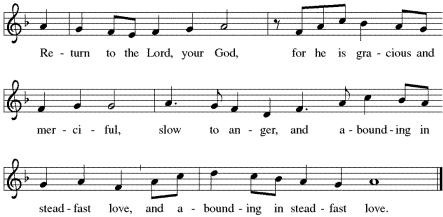
Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



GOSPEL John 4:5-42

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you

living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

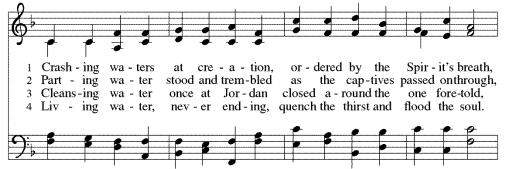
<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

# The assembly is seated

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Crashing Waters at Creation . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand and Sing





Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993 Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. 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 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.

#### **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

#### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Create in Me* . . . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand and Sing



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray,

C Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

## A brief silence.

O God, let your church on earth, justified and reconciled through Jesus Christ, be bold in its proclamation of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In your hands are the depths of the earth and the sea which you made. Make us faithful inhabitants of this earth, caring for the waterways and their creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Lead the nations of the world away from the wilderness of sin and evil, and toward the light of love and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

To those who are thirsty for love, for justice, for peace, for belonging, give the water of life. For those who are suffering or in pain, bring healing balm and peace. (*We pray especially for*...) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lead this congregation in service to others. Embolden the faithful here with your promise and your presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the witness and testimony of the saints who have gone before us into eternal life. Let us boast in the hope they have shared, a hope that does not disappoint us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### 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

#### **BLESSING**

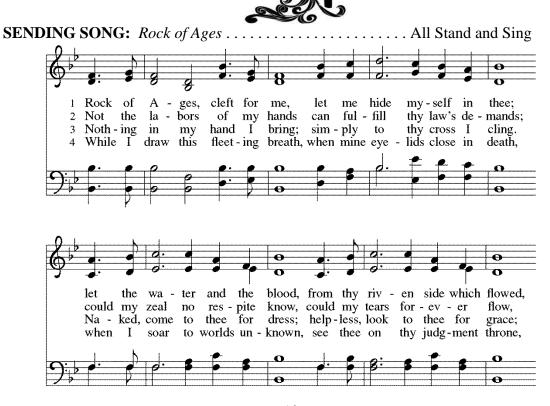
P May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

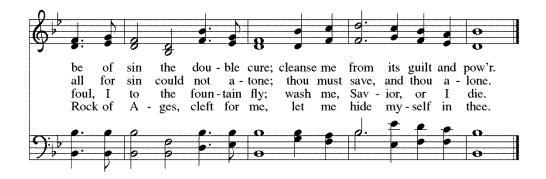
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you  $\oplus$  peace.

C Amen.





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

#### **DISMISSAL**

- P Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **The 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.

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. Nurseries for children (infants through 3 years old) are located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.

**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 board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the online form at www.holyc.org.

# Offering and Attendance Report for March 12, 2017:

Attendance: 95

Budget Report	<u>March 12, </u>	<u> 201 /</u>
Current Offering Received	\$ 5,20	1.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,656	5.42
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 46,894	4.59
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 314	4.71
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 1,384	4.92

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**LECTORS:** Julia Gunter **GREETER:** Becky Richards

**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am) **ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** 

Infants: Volunteer: Toddlers: Volunteer Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1) **TELLERS:** Rochelle & Danny Potter

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains Carmen De Nicholas **USHERS:** Need Volunteers

Deb Williams CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Volunteer

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: March 19-25** 

March 20 Mike Wesson March 24 Mollie Caldwell March 25 Pat Koehler March 21 Riley Fleming

March 22 Louise Day



# THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, March 19

9:30 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Dinner 10:10 am Church Choir prep 6:45 pm Lenten Worship 10:30 am Worship Service 7:15 pm Chamber Choir

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church choir

Thursday, March 23

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 pm Evangelism Comm.

# Tuesday, March 21

7:00 pm Christian Ed meets, Nar-Anon



# PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Ned Featherstone
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander Tom Irwin Chase Lineberger Lucy Mitchell & Family Holly Peche Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Jack Tench Mark Reese Beverly Reynolds

#### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Father Frank Cancro Scott Frisk Carol Fox Brian Jackson & Family Parker Holland Jennifer Lineberger Capt. Basil Jeff Marett Margaret Sparks Karen Wayt Donnie Yavelak

#### **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Matt Cisek
Jason Gardner



Dillon Kasmer Leo Kasmer Tom Kasmer Mike Kelso

Please remember these people in your prayers.

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

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at <a href="https://www.holyc.org.">www.holyc.org.</a>



Join us June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup> 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. We will also provide a quick meal each evening for all participants & volunteers.

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. Registration forms will be available soon for children in rising grades K through 5th. We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!

It is hard to believe but it is already time to start planning for summer camp!



# Holy Comforter is hosting Camp Agape July 17-21.



Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Agape Kure Beach Ministries.

During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 25 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.



On **March 26**, following the service, we will provide lunch and will pack personal care kits for *Lutheran World Relief*.

# Throughout the month of March we will collect items for those kits.

The items need to be **new**, and are as follows:

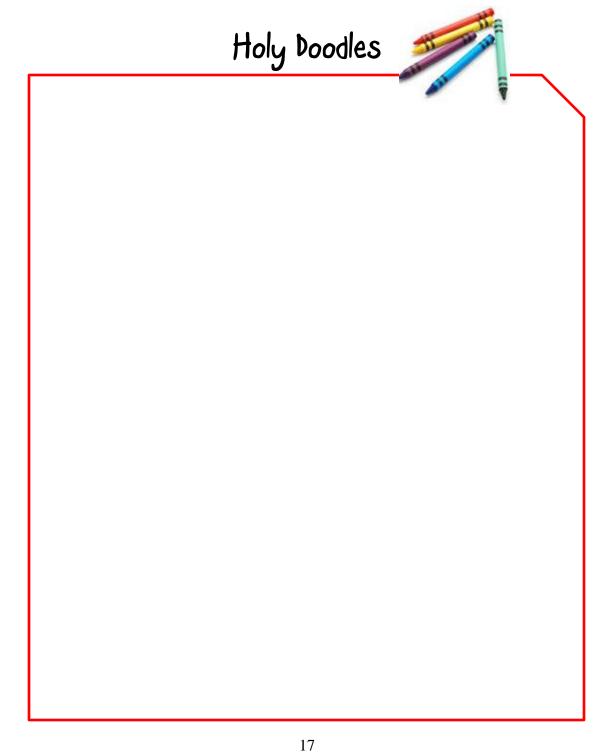


lightweight bath-size towels

- unopened soap
- adult size toothbrush
  - sturdy comb
- · metal nail clippers



These kits will then get sent around the world to people in desperate need of them. We appreciate your generosity to provide for others out of the abundance God provides for us.





# Holy C Sandwich Group

# Do life situations sometimes leave you feeling "sandwiched?"

Do you ever feel like the middle slice of meat — maybe fried to a crisp — expected to hold together a whole club sandwich?

Would a little Christian community pick-me-up help pull you through?

Join us for scripture, dinner, laughter and togetherness on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 at Mark & Rebecca Yount's 511 Belwood Drive in Belmont.

Whether you're single, married, or somewhere in between, all are welcomed, with the hope to meet on a regular basis.

Please email myount@belmontfederal.com or Rebecca.yount@lashgroup.com **by March 17**<sup>th</sup> to let us know you're coming.

Shawl Ministry\_

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 704-825-5597 or 704-813-3590 OR Debbie Neagle at 704-827-5263 or 704-460-1547.



# 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.

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 their lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others. Modest scholarships will be awarded to students of the congregation from the fund.

Authorized by the Holy Comforter Church Council, the Scholarship Ministry accepts applications from candidates who have been communing and contributing members of the church for at least one year. The awards are announced in May or early June.

The amount of the award depends on the following:

- · Number of students applying for, and receiving, an award
- · Total amount in the fund
- · Recent fund performance

Other donations to this fund can be made as memorials or tributes to friends and family on their special occasions. Please make checks payable to Holy Comforter and write *Lineberger Scholarship Ministry* on the memo line to ensure your gift is credited appropriately.

As the fund grows, we will be able to give more help to students.

# **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street 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 Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager