

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 23, 2017

## The Second Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Fugue in C Major* ..... J. S. Bach

### 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 Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

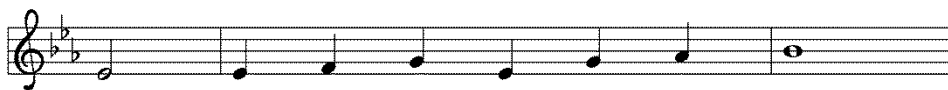
P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

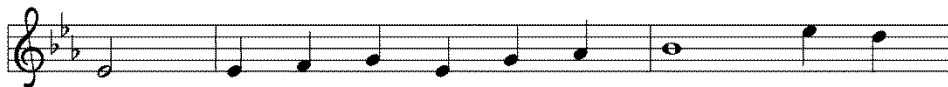
P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

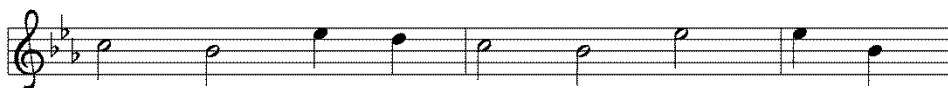
# GATHERING SONG: *Now All the Vault of Heav'n Resounds . . . All Stand and Sing*



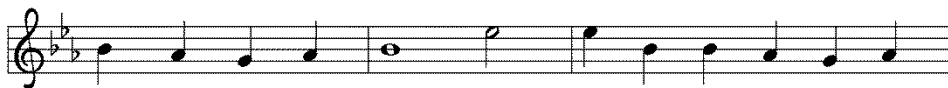
1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



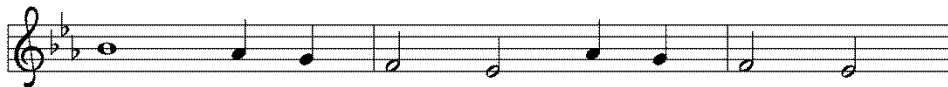
in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



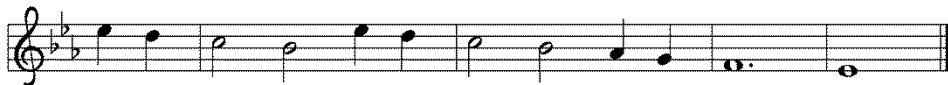
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. 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

*Pastor*

*Congregation*

*P*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

*C*

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

*P*

Lord, have mer - cy.

*C*

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

*P*

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

*C*

Lord, have mer - cy.

*P*

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

*Pastor*

let us pray to the Lord.

*Congregation*

Lord, have mer - cy.

*Pastor* *Congregation*



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glor-y to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, 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 nurseries**.

## FIRST READING

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

A reading from the second chapter of Acts.

*After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>22</sup>"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
 moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
 or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
 you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’  
<sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both  
 died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he  
 knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants  
 on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,  
 ‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
 nor did his flesh experience corruption.’  
<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 16 ..... All Read Responsively

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;  
 I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”  
<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
 upon those who are noble among the people.**  
<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
 shall have their troubles multiplied.  
<sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
 never take their names upon my lips.**  
<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;  
 it is you who uphold my lot.  
<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
 indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**  
<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
 my heart teaches me night after night.  
<sup>8</sup>**I have set the LORD always before me;  
 because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**  
<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
 my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures  
forevermore.

## SECOND READING

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Peter.

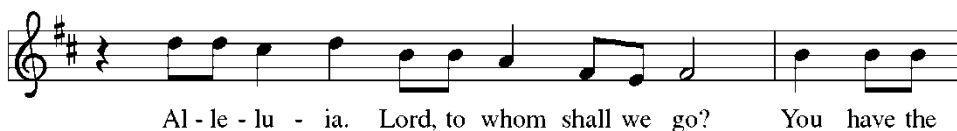
*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**John 20:19-31**

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

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

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated*

**SERMON** . . . . . Guest Seminarian, Brandon Heavner



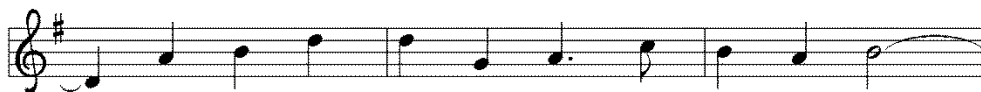
## HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Know That Christ Is Raised . . . . . All Stand and Sing*



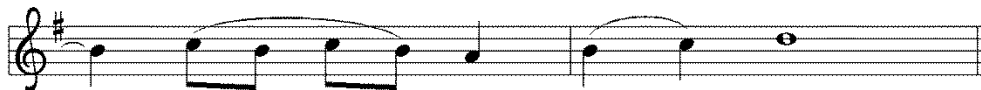
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
 Text © John B. Geyer.

## 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.

## PEACE

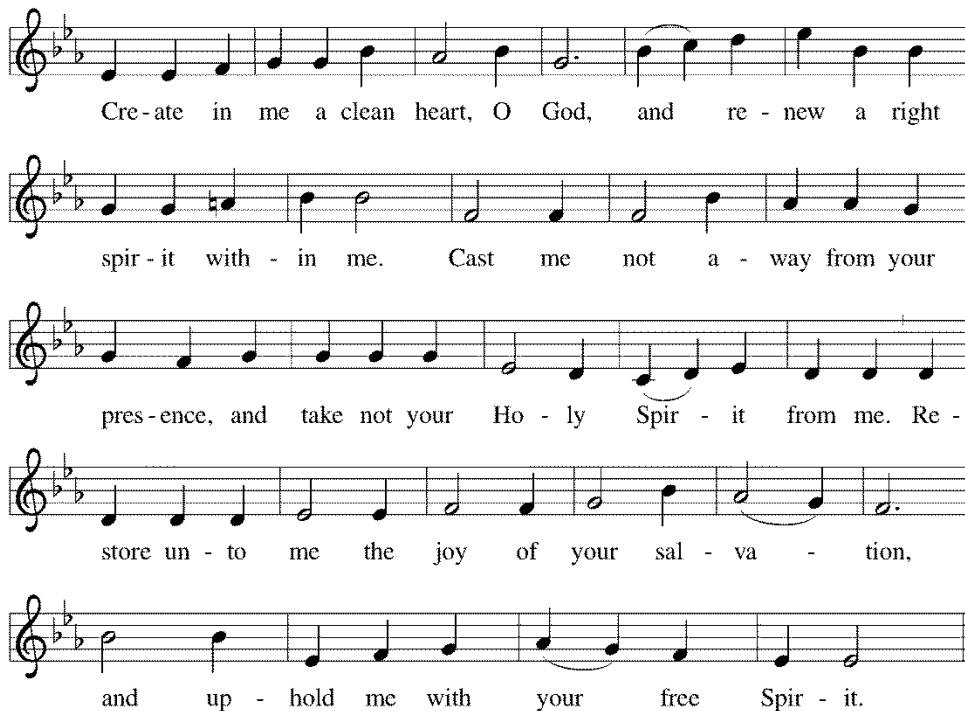
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* ..... All Stand & Sing



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

**C Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Breathe your Spirit into us. Renew us with your power. Unite us in mission and send us into the world with your love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the earth. For fields and forests, gardens and vineyards, and all newly planted crops. Sustain our world with clean water and favorable weather. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations. Empower leaders to work for the well-being of all. Send peace into every place where people live in the shadow of violence and displacement. Free all who are isolated behind walls of fear. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Look with compassion toward those who bear hidden wounds. Draw near to those who seek you. Comfort the dying, console the grieving, and heal the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. Give us courage to welcome newcomers graciously. Walk with those who are inquiring, those who harbor doubts and questions, and those who are absent from us. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith. Inspire us by their witness. Bring us with them to the heavenly feast. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus 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 brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

# SENDING SONG: *Thine Is The Glory* . . . . . All Stand and 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

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Second 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. 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Richard & Kay Holden celebrating the birth of their 4<sup>th</sup> great grandchild; and by Jo & Harold Singleton in memory of Jo's sister, Reva Weatherman.

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

**Carmen Buell, Worship & Music**

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**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 16, 2017:**

Attendance: 88 for Sunrise; 205 for 10:30 Service

<b><u>Budget Report</u></b>	<b><u>April 16, 2017</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>
Offering	\$ 7,813.00	\$ 85,181.75
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 87,762.07
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 2,156.58</u>	<u>(\$ 2,580.32)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 87,762.07</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 1,276.29)</u>

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**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTORS:** Donna Bean

**GREETER:** Becky Richards

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**GUEST SEMINARIAN:**

Brandon Heavner

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)

Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains

Carmen Buell

Barbara Kasmer

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Jill Cassel

**USHERS:** Need Volunteers

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

*Infants:* Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Raini Kimball,  
Dennis Tucker

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**BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK:** April 23-29

Today, April 23 Tim Baker

April 24 Mark Kline

April 25 Julia Gunter

April 28 Joseph Mitchell

Rita Stewart



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**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

**Today, April 23**

9:30 am No Children's Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am Worship Service

4:00 pm *Chrismon* workshop at Rebecca Yount's home

5:00 pm **HCY** to IHOP, meet at CVS in Belmont to carpool  
No Church Choir

**Tuesday, April 25**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Wednesday, April 26**

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study  
The study of the book  
of Revelation



**Saturday, April 29**

11 am-2 pm ***Earth Day*** celebration  
at Kevin Loftin Park



**The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry**

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship applications are due April 30<sup>th</sup>. Only those applications including the required transcript and essay received by the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline will be considered.

*Thank You, The Scholarship Ministry*



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](mailto:melissa.bocchino@pwc.com). Registration forms will be available soon for children in rising grades K through 5<sup>th</sup>. We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!





## 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.

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## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Shawn De Nicholas  
Ardean Ewing  
Ned Featherstone

Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Chase Lineberger  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Mark Reese  
Beverly Reynolds

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro  
Karen de la Vega  
Carol Fox  
Scott Frisk  
Bill Hinkle

Glenda Hinkle  
Brian Jackson & Family  
Jennifer Lineberger  
Capt. Basil Jeff Marett  
Anne Murdy

Heather Plichta  
Karen Wayt  
Donnie Yavelak

## OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek  
Jason Gardner



Dillon Kasmer  
Leo Kasmer

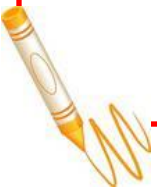
Tom Kasmer

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

# Holy Doodles



**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street 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

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager