

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 24, 2016

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: 18th Century Trumpet Tune Johnson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of grace and glory,

C you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

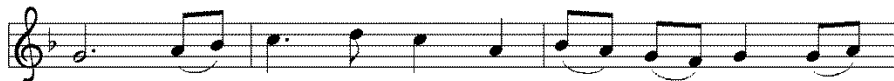
P Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and ☩ frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

C Amen.

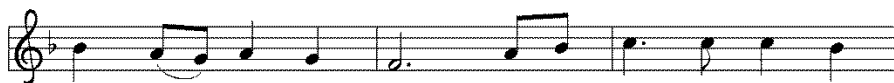
GATHERING SONG: *All Are Welcome* All Stand and Sing



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



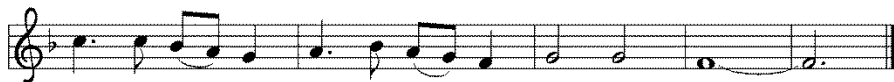
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
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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.

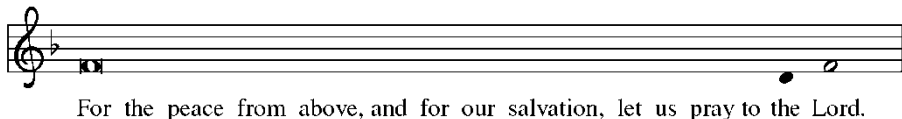
KYRIE

Pastor

Congregation



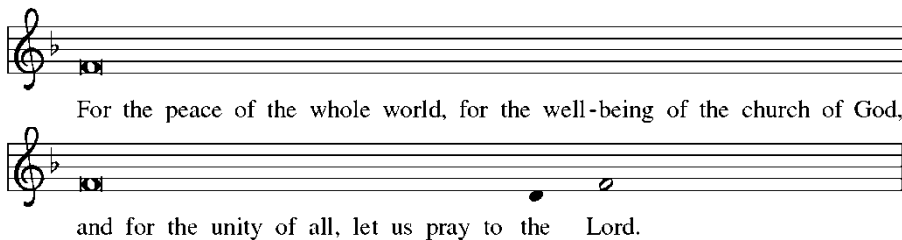
P



C



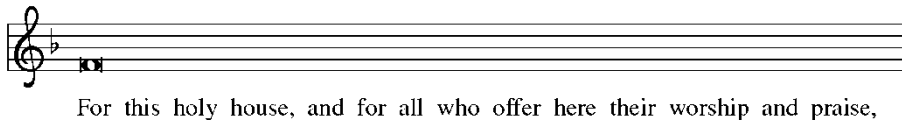
P



C

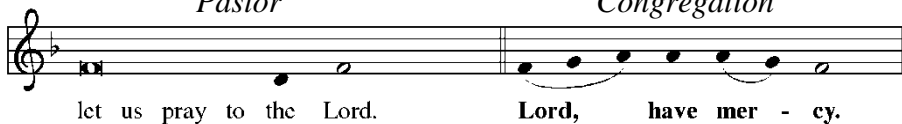


P



Pastor

Congregation



Pastor *Congregation*

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glory 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.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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

CHILDREN’S TIME

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

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

A reading from the eleventh chapter of Acts.

In defense of his earlier baptism of pagan believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God’s intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus’ own testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But a

second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148. All Read Responsively

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the world;
¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**
¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from the twenty-first chapter of Revelation.

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me,

“It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After washing the disciples’ feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus’ community.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



P The gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated

SERMON Pastor Micah

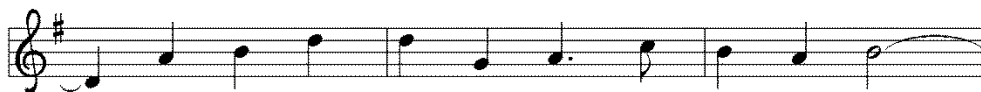
HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Know That Christ Is Raised All Stand and Sing*



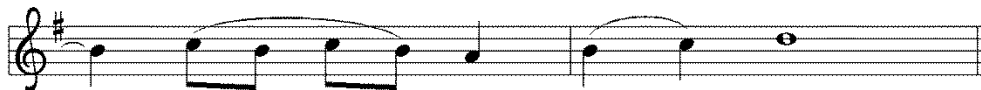
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



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: *Blessed Be the Name of The Lord* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue .* All Stand & Sing



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my
2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er
3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions
4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to



knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are
vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -
end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now
one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one



vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.
dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.
see: then we will see love face to face.
mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional
Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

OFFERING PRAYER

P 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, by your Holy Spirit reveal to us the saving work of Christ. Strengthen your church with the good news that leads to limitless life for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send us to places far and near, and join our voices in chorus with all creation. Use us to show others your abundant goodness in the created world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

End war and the human desire to hold on to power. Free all people to love both neighbor and enemy, and make your church an example of such love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Surround people who are hurting with agents of your healing and messengers of your peace. Provide safe communities for all who are in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen the bonds of shared service between congregations and social ministry organizations. Guide us in doing your work together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ's death and resurrection you have fulfilled your work for the sake of your saints. Come swiftly to dwell among us and to make all things new. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of 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 The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of ☩ Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Lift High The Cross* All Stand and Sing

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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DISMISSAL

P Alleluia. 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 Fifth 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.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Kathy Graves.

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

Offering and Attendance Report for April 17, 2016:

Attendance: 152

Budget Report

April 17, 2016

Current Offering Received	\$ 4,888.25
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 86,256.25
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 11,012.32
Offering less Expenses Year-To-Date	\$ 8,819.02

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Judy Caldwell

GREETER: Amanda Kelly

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Rochelle & Danny Potter

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains
Carmen Buell
Barbara Kasmer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Veronica Bryant + Helper

USHERS: Need Volunteers

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

Infants: Volunteers; *Toddlers:* Jill Leitner

ANTHEM DIRECTOR: Jo Irwin

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: April 24-30

Today, April 24 Mark Kline
April 25 Julia Gunter

April 28 Joseph Mitchell
Rita Stewart
April 30 Deborah Williams



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, April 17

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, April 26

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Christian Ed committee
Nar-Anon

Wednesday, January 20

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

The 2016 Flower Chart is available in the narthex.

There are still some Sundays available for you to provide altar flowers.

Please *print your name* at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 vase or both).

If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.

SAVE THE DATE! **VBS** Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School 2016

DATE: June 26-29th ● 6:00-7:45 pm

This summer, Holy Comforter is providing kids an adventure like no other, deep within the mysterious sea. Our Vacation Bible School program will allow children to submerge themselves in God's Word. They will discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people. He looked deep down on the inside. So grab your goggles, step into your flippers, and prepare to register your kids for diving below the surface to find the truth!



A quick meal will be provided, then the children rotate through activities of play, studying scripture, singing, and art. Parents are welcome to stay or take this time for themselves. Information about registering will be coming soon. If you are interested in helping with the program, you would be welcomed, whether it's providing a meal or assisting with one of the activity stations. **More formal guidance and materials will be provided for all volunteers.** Contact Melissa Bocchino at Melissa.bocchino@pwc.com.



Holy Comforter is hosting **Camp Agape** the week of July 18-22. Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we will again include 6th-rising 8th graders. The kids in this age 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 in the narthex or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis. Contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

Misty Koehler, Camp Coordinator



BCO items for the month: Crackers & Rice





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
David Dowd
Ardean Ewing
Diann Halvorson &
Family

Dot Holland
Zack Hullander
Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive

Mark Reese
Beverley Reynolds
Anna Spikes
Kevin Washle

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy
Harriett Ange
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Barbara Bingham
Graham Brezler
Libby Byrum
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Zachary Evans
Jamey Gardner
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Tammy Gordon

Brian Hedrick
Sam Holloway
Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Terry Mahaffey
Al McCoy
Clay McCoy
Gene McRorie
Don Moore
Jean Peters
Jim Poag
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Julio Quiros

Dan Robinson and
Daughters Breanna & Mikayla
Anna Rudder
Tangie Shingler
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Carson Thomas
Sally Vanhoy
Pat Via
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles
Bruce Zander

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll
Matt Cisek
Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer
Leo Kasmer
Tom Kasmer

Mike Kelso
Jeremy Shaver



Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Kathy Graves.

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

Today, April 24 HCY will be going to Sky High Sports (Trampoline Place)

Meet at the church at 5:30 pm and return by 8:00 pm
Cost is \$19.50 per child and includes 90 minutes of play time!



The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship applications are due today, April 24th. Only those applications including the required transcript and essay received by the April 24th deadline will be considered.

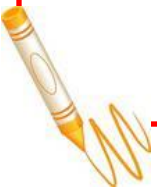
Thank You, The Scholarship Ministry

Sunday School Attendance April 17, 2016



	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	3	2
Pre-School	6	2
Lower Elem.	7	1
Upper Elem.		
Middle School	1	1
High School	2	2
Seekers		5
Adult Bible Class		10
Totals:	19	23

Holy Doodles



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

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager