

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 15, 2015

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *From God Can Nothing Move Me* Walther

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.

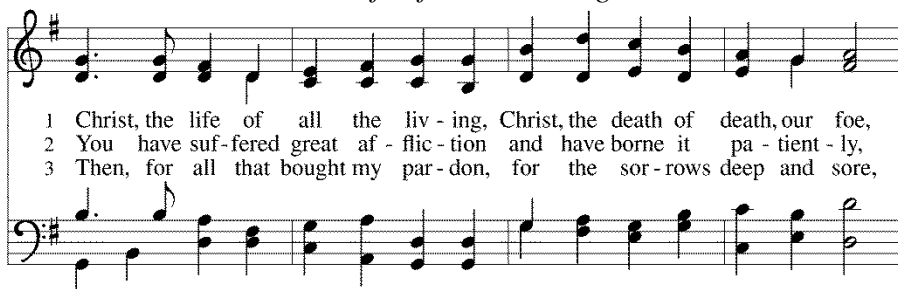
P Gracious God,

**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.**

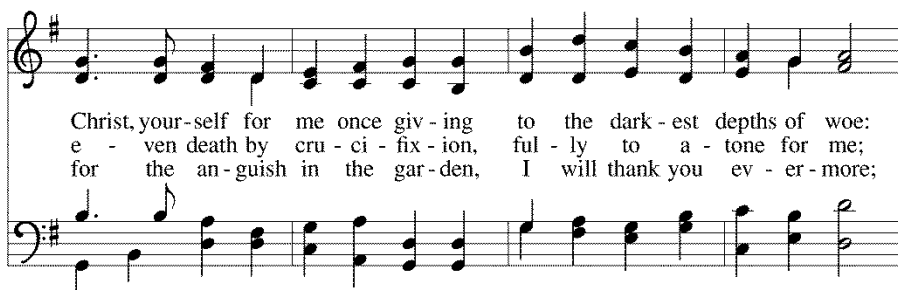
P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us
in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C Amen.

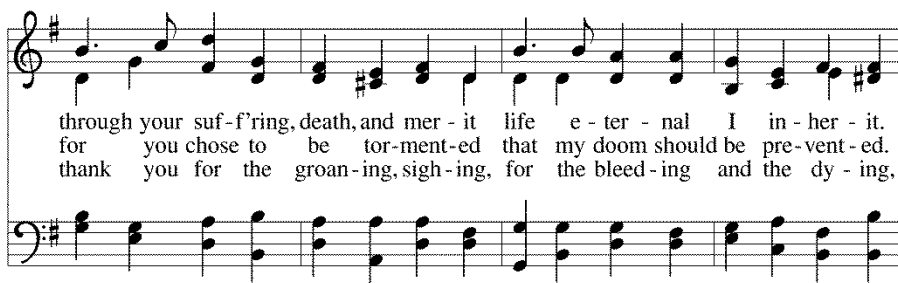
GATHERING SONG: *Christ, the Life of All the Living* All Stand & Sing



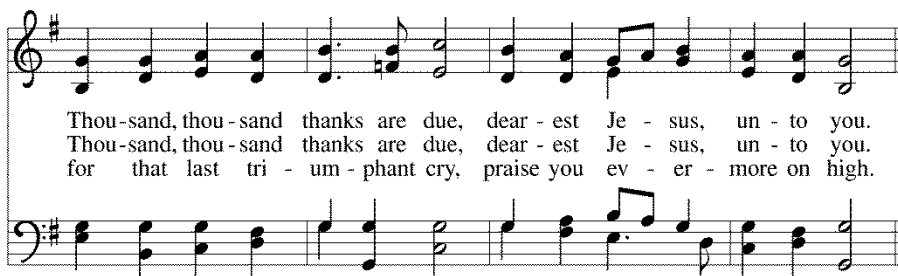
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

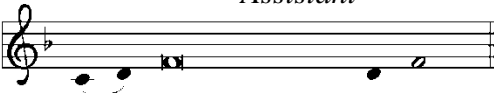
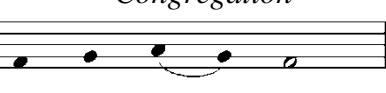
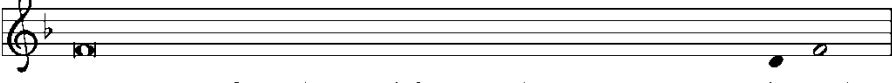

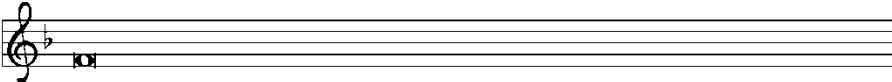
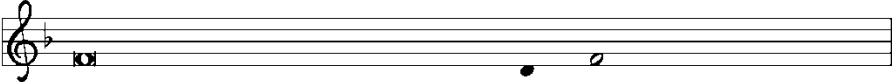

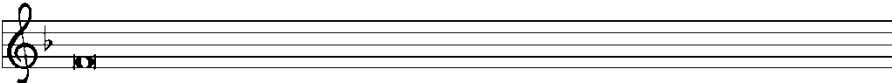
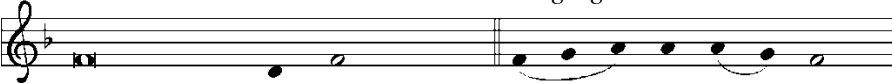
Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

GREETING

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

	<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
		
	In peace, let us pray to the Lord.	Lord, have mer - cy.
<i>Assistant</i>		
	For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.	
<i>Cong.</i>		
	Lord, have mer - cy.	
<i>Assistant</i>		
	For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,	
		
	and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.	
<i>Cong.</i>		
	Lord, have mer - cy.	
<i>Assistant</i>		
	For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,	
		
	let us pray to the Lord.	Lord, have mer - cy.

prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 107:1–3, 17–22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy en-¹dures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took re-¹bellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all man-¹ner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 2:1–10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

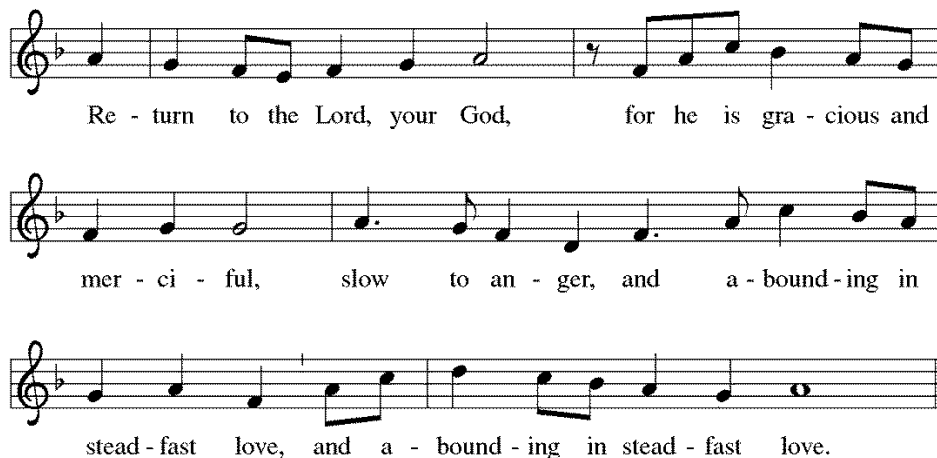
You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the

course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the

bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

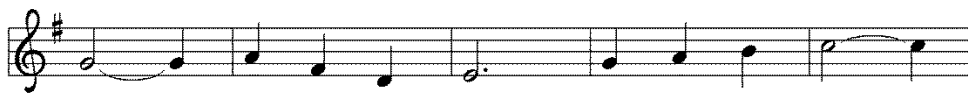
SERMON Pastor Micah



HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ, Be Our Light* All Stand & Sing



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



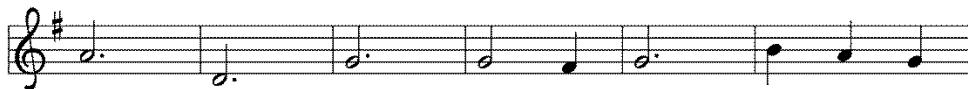
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



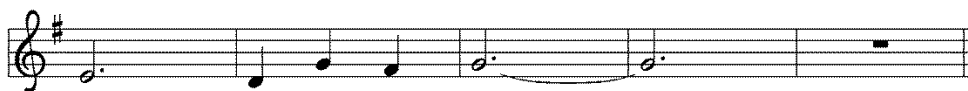
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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 is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

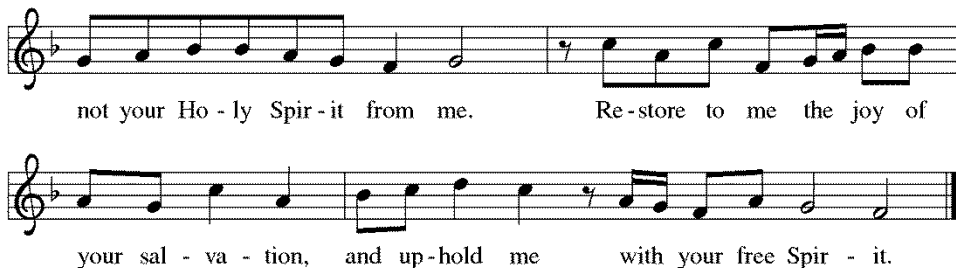
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Ah, Holy Jesus* Church Choir

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



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.

Loving God, make your church bold proclaimers of the gospel, so that those who do not know the depth of your love in Christ will hear and believe. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give us hearts filled with love for your creation, so that our words and deeds bear witness to the unending care you have for the whole cosmos. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage nations to work together for the sake of all people. Break down barriers that prejudice has built up, and restore the dignity of every living thing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Provide respite and healing for all who suffer (*especially*). Hold all people in your expansive love, and restore wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Turn our hearts to praise as we are forgiven, healed, and freed from every evil that binds us. Shine your light upon us, so that nothing about our life in you is hidden. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Resurrecting God, we remember those who now worship at your throne (*especially*), and with expectant hearts we await the day when all will behold you in glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

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.**

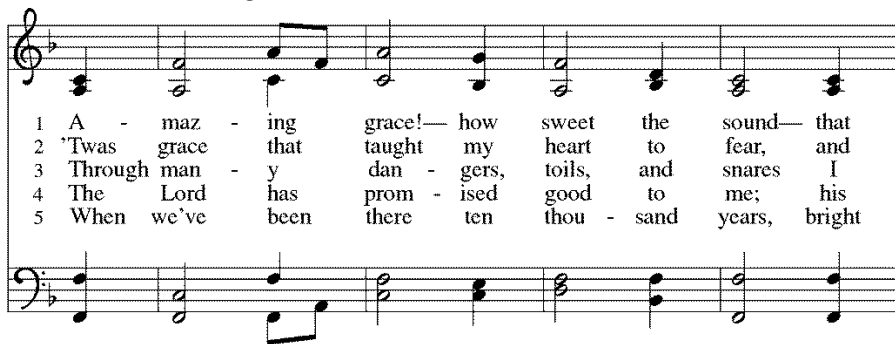
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

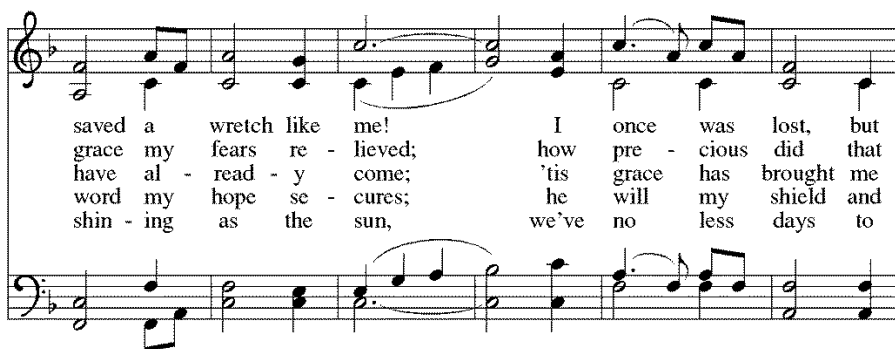
P The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

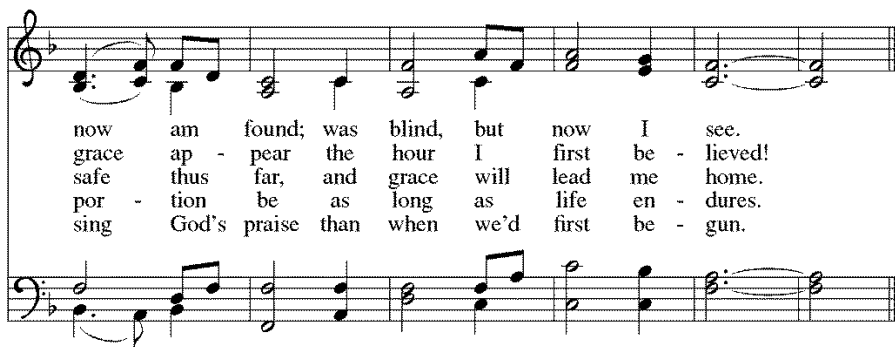
SENDING SONG: *Amazing Grace* All Stand & Sing



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN. W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council
of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under OneLicense #A-724639

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Fourth Sunday of 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. 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 Carmen & Merritt De Nicholas in honor of Arden's birthday; and by Cher Grant & Linda Grimsley in memory of Louise Grant.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 8, 2015:

Attendance: 126

Budget Report

Current Offering Received 3/1/2015

Weekly Budgeted Expenses

Offering, Year-To-Date

Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, Year-To-Date

Offering less Budgeted Expenses, Year-To-Date

March 8, 2015

\$ 4,833.00

\$ 4,598.27

\$ 48,898.95

\$ 4,724.07

\$ 3,793.91

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr., Brian Achor

GREETER: Natalie Hullander

ACOLYTE: Need Volunteer

CRUCIFER: Need Volunteer

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Carmen De Nicholas
Natalie Hullander

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

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Dian Halvorson, Co-Captain
Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain
Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

USHERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: March 15-21

March 20 Mike Wesson

March 21 Riley Fleming

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, March 15

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir in Choir room
10:30 am The Service

Volunteer Luncheon after

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, March 18

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
6:45 pm ***Lenten Worship***
Chamber Choir after

Saturday, March 21

9:00 am ***Kids' Club*** meets to
carpool to *Zootastic Park*
at Lake Norman

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**If you have 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.**

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.



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
Brian Hedrick

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
Jason Gardner



Dillon Kasmer
Alex Norris

Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

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

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

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 be 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. A transcript from your most recently completed semester
 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 from the church office by filling in Lineberger 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 today, March 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 8, 2015

	Children	Adults
Nursery	5	2
Pre-K	3	2
God's Eden	8	1
Seekers		12
Adult Bible Class		13
Totals:	16	32



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: _____ **Breakfast:** _____ **Y,** _____ **N**

Email: _____ **Telephone:** _____



Easter Lily Order

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 of 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.

For Rising 1st - Rising 8th Graders
July 13-18
Agape
Day Camp



Get your registration forms from Misty Koehler.
Cost: \$130/camper due at time of registration.
Only 20 spaces available...**first come, first served.**

Evangelism Committee Meeting

March 26, 2015

7:00 pm in the Church Parlor

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