

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 8, 2018

The Second Sunday of Easter

Micah Kearney
Pastor



Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Creation* Callahan

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

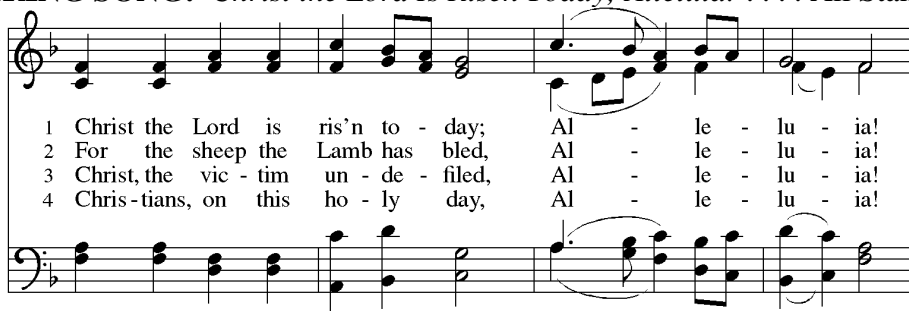
C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

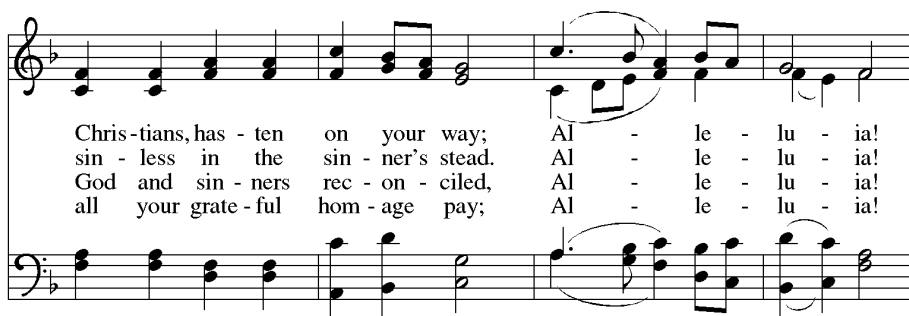
P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through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

C Amen.

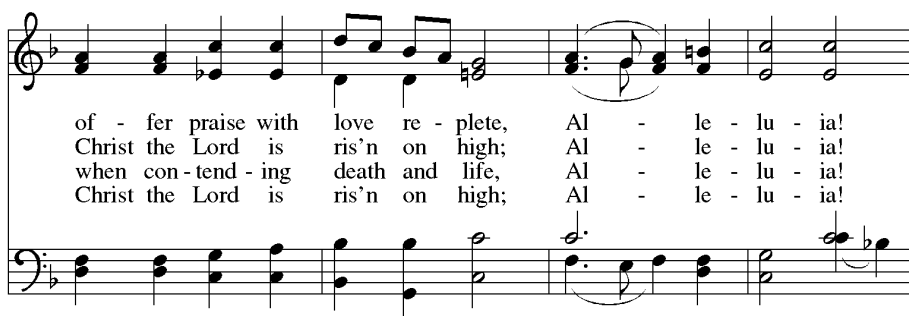
GATHERING SONG: *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia! . . . All Stand & Sing*




1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.
 Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

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.

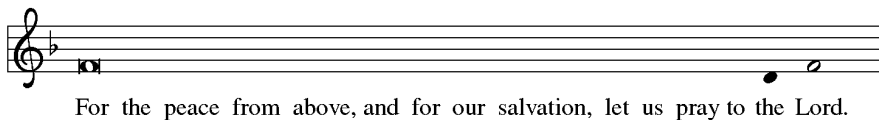
KYRIE

Pastor

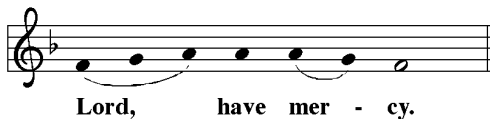
Congregation



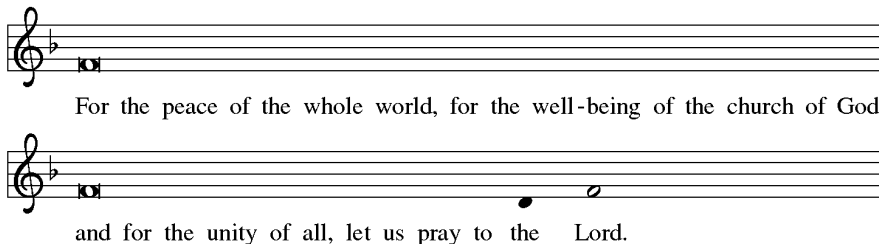
P



C



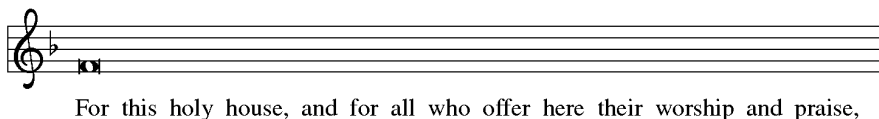
P



C

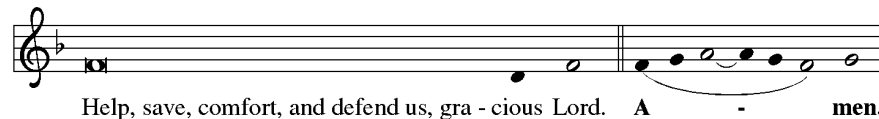
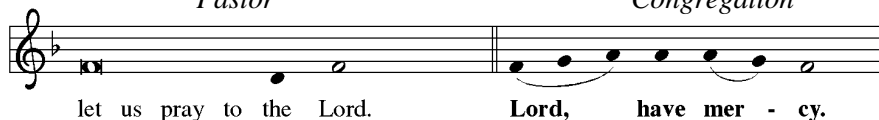


P



Pastor

Congregation



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Pastor



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,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 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 4:32-35

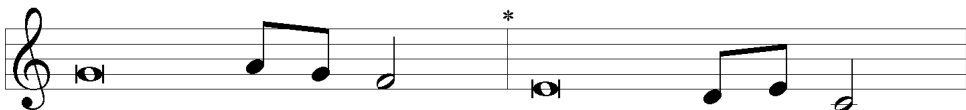
A reading from the fourth chapter of Acts.

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



PSALM 133 All Sing

¹How good and how pleas- | ant it is,
when kindred live togeth- | er in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- | on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar | of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the | hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for- | evermore.

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1-2:2

A reading from the first chapter of 1 John.

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he

is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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 story of Easter continues as the risen Lord appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.



¹⁹When 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.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.”

²⁶A 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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 Seminarian, Cassie Overcash

HYMN OF THE DAY: *The Risen Christ* All Stand & Sing

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
From garden tomb through darkened city street,
Unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
And speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
Breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
Whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;
New grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand
The bread for those who fail to understand,
Reveals himself, despite their ling’ring tears,
Enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.

May we, Christ’s body, walk and serve and stand
With those oppressed in this and ev’ry land,
Till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
Restored in Christ to true humanity.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Groatorex, 1877–1949
Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.
Music © Oxford University Press. 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.

PEACE

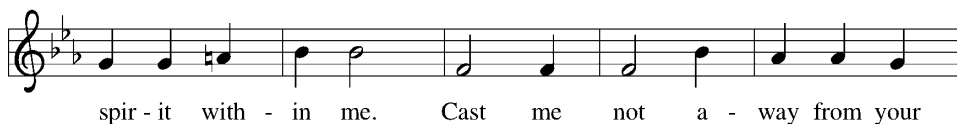
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Come By Here.* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* All Stand & Sing





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 life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you speak peace in the presence of fear. Give us courage to testify to your grace with our lives. Embolden prophets, preachers, and teachers to speak your truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you create peace in the midst of chaos. Where storms rage and winds howl, bring calm. Protect people and animals from the dangers of weather. Restore damaged lands and homes. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are peace in a violent world. Heal neighborhoods ravaged by crime. Reconcile political factions at war. Build relationships where suspicion keeps us apart, and bring us to the day of unity. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you bring peace to a hurting world. Fill the stomachs of the hungry. Bind up the shattered. Give rest to the weary and hope to the disillusioned. Restore the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you breathe your Spirit of peace into us. Enlivened by the Spirit, equip us to bring new life to all we meet in our work and in our play. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are our peace in this world and the next. Comfort all who mourn. Hold them in your tender care. Bring us all around the table as we share the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, 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 & 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

SENDING

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 **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 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 Andrew & Beverly Robinson in honor of Rita Robinson's 90th birthday and in memory of Ed Robinson, Adolph & Thelma Moss.

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 1, 2018:

Attendance Sunrise: 74; 10:30 am: 189

Budget Report

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 5,473.00	\$ 73,376.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$ 67,524.24
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 78.17)</u>	<u>\$ 5,851.79</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 72,958.27</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		\$ 417.76

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: April 8-14

Today, April 8 Shirley Causby

Fran Holland

April 10 Bryan Fleming

April 11 Matthew Mitchell

April 12 Elizabeth Burwell



ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Katie Kessen

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Amanda Kelly Katie Kessen Rebecca Yount

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Veronica Bryant

USHERS: Volunteers

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am)

Melany Nixon

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, April 8

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service
Church Council after

5:00 pm Handbells

HCY meets at the church

6:00 pm Church Choir

7:15 pm Chamber Choir

Monday, April 9

6:30 pm Social Ministry meets

Tuesday, April 10

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, April 11

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Saturday, April 14

7:00 am **Yard Sale** for Houston

We welcome seminarian Cassie Overcash to the pulpit this morning.



Agape Day Camp will be held July 15th-20th For grades entering 1st - 8th



Registration forms are available from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 32 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.



VBS Registration Coming Soon... Dates of VBS are July 29-August 2

Volunteers needed to teach, set up, cleanup, and collect supplies.
Contact Beka at rforst@holyc.org to volunteer.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry



Applications for the 2018-2019 academic year are now available in the church office or via email at holycomforter@gmail.com. Include *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. The office manager will send you an application that you can complete. The deadline for your **completed application, transcript, and typed essay is April 30. Any applications received after that date will not be considered.**

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 annual deadline is the last Sunday in April and 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.

Thank You,
The Scholarship Ministry



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive

Jo Singleton & Family
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
Beverly Lineberger
Jennifer Lineberger
John McDermid

Clarence McLain
Anne Murdy
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN



Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer Colton Parker

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 in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org

BCO April Items of the Month

Jelly



Saltines



Pasta Noodles



BIG NEWS!

We are hosting a Yard Sale as a Fundraiser for Houston!!!

Our yard sale will be held on April 14th from 7 am till 12 pm.



The **National Youth Gathering** is exactly what it sounds like,
30,000 + youth will gather in Houston.
We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.
There are 94 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!
For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.



In the coming months you will be introduced to one of our seven travelers to Houston. Below, meet Bella Ince.

Hi, my name is Bella Ince and I am 14 years old. I am in 8th grade at Mt. Holly middle school. My hobbies include singing, playing volleyball, and baking. I am excited to go to Houston to serve God in as many ways as possible. I am also eager to make lifelong friendships with people who have the same belief. I am currently an active participant in *HCY* and in confirmation and I am excited to see how Houston will help us grow in faith.

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: mkearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager

Holy Doodles

