

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 1, 2015

The Second Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *A Lenten Offering* Traditional

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.**

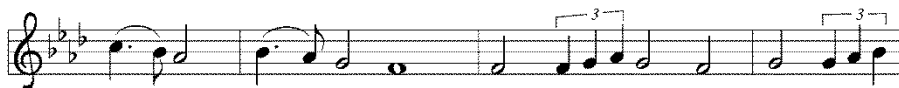
P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us
in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow All Stand & Sing*



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



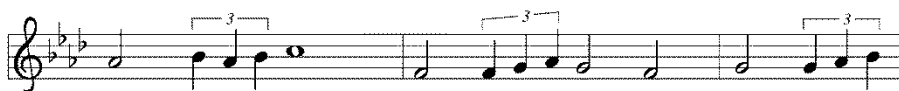
goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



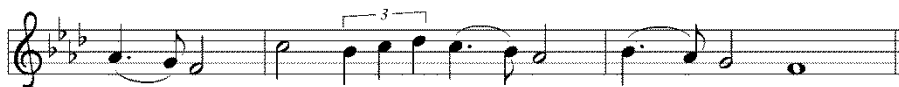
ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
 ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

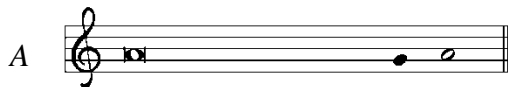
Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

GREETING

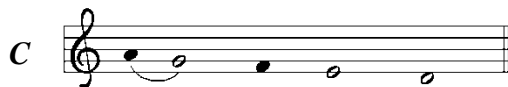
P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

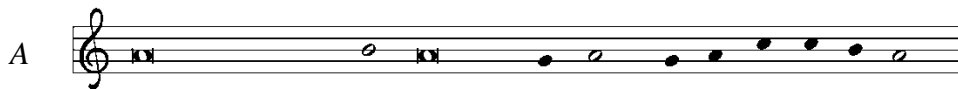
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



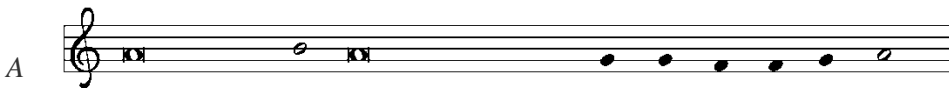
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



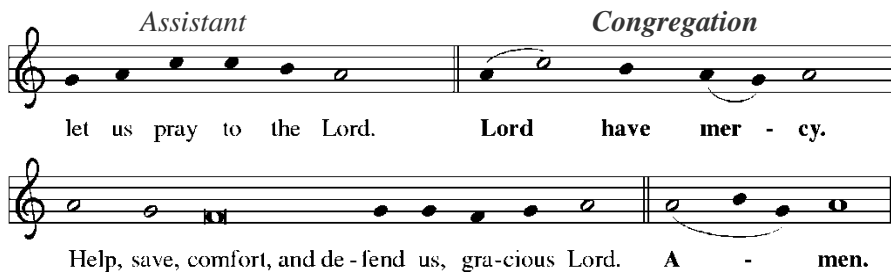
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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 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

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of Genesis.

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your

name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:23–31 Read Responsively

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;**

but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,

shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING

Romans 4:13–25

A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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,



GOSPEL

Mark 8:31–38

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

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

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

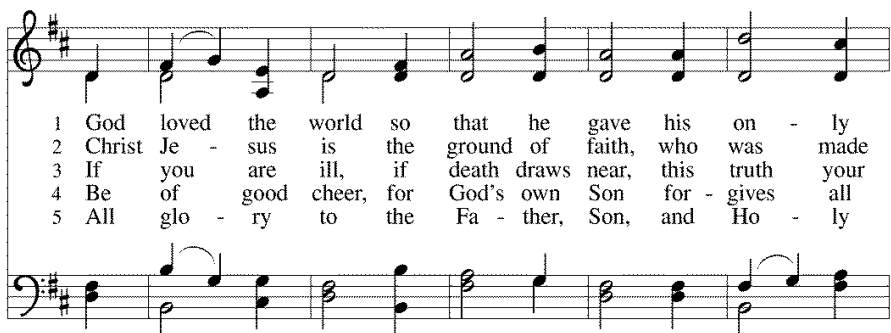
P The gospel of the Lord.

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

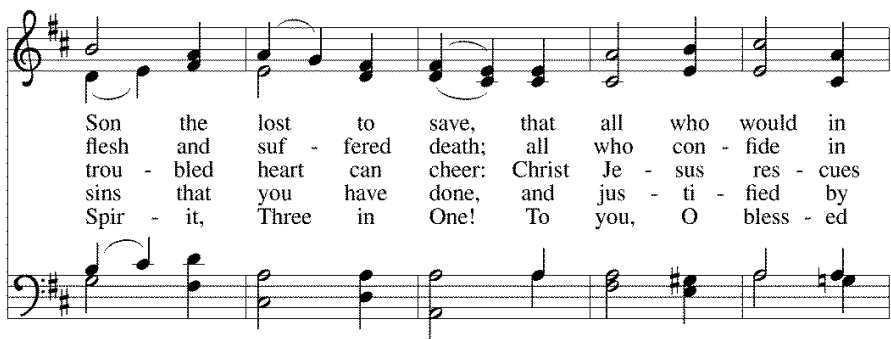
The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God Loved the World* All Stand & Sing



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son, for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Lamb of God* 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 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.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Lord God, you poured out your life on the cross for the sake of the world. Pour out your

love through your church and make it a community of welcome and grace to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You stretched out your hand and created the heavens. We praise you for the sun, moon, and stars that mark our days and fill us with awe. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Uphold the work of international relief organizations, aid workers, and all who strive for peace in troubled parts of the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You fulfill your promises. Draw near to those who call on you for help, especially... Open our eyes to the needs all around us and move us to respond in faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gift this assembly with music. We praise you for singers and instrumentalists, for those who compose melodies, those who write hymn texts, and for voices to use in praise of you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Remember your covenant with us, and keep us faithful to you until we join with all the saints and angels around your heavenly throne. 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.

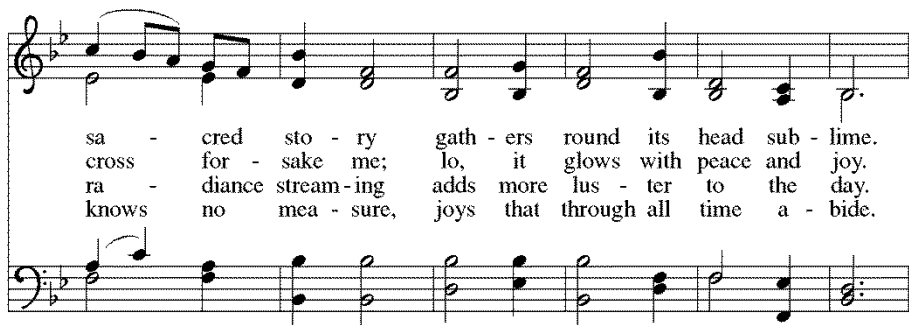
C Amen.



SENDING SONG: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* All Stand & Sing

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Second Sunday in Lent**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN are welcome in worship. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. 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 Laura, Sarah & Elizabeth Tench in honor of Khloe's 3rd birthday and Jack's birthday.

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, February 22, 2015:

Attendance: 147

Budget Report

February 22, 2015

Current Offering Received 2/22/2015	\$ 4,677.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,598.27
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 37,925.55
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, Year-To-Date	\$ 1,041.13
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, Year-To-Date	\$ 3,549.82

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr.

GREETER: Melissa Bocchino

ACOLYTE: Need Volunteer

CRUCIFER: Need Volunteer

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Brandy Milton + Helper

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

Misty & Emily Koehler

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Dian Halvorson, Co-Captain

Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: March 1-7

March 2 Khloe Tench

March 4 Dean Halvorson

March 5 Rob Ratchford

March 6 Ann Ashe

Debbie Baker

Jo Singleton

March 7 Holly Harper



SAVE THE DATE: On **Saturday, March 21**, 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.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, March 1

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room
- 10:30 am The Service
- 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
- 5:00 pm Handbells
- 6:00 pm Church Choir
- Worship & Music Comm. after***
- 8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, March 3

- 7:00 pm Nar-Anon
- 7:15 pm Property Committee Upstairs

Wednesday, March 4

- 1:00 pm ***Morning Circle***
Meets in fellowship hall
- 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
- 6:45 pm **Lenten Worship**
Holden Evening Prayer
Chamber Choir after the service

Saturday, March 7

- 7:00 pm ***Staying Connected***
Meet at church to plan
meal for Ronald McDonald
House.



SAVE THE DATE: March 15

For ***Annual Volunteer Luncheon.***
Hosted by the Stewardship Comm.
Held immediately after worship.
Church provides meat & beverages.
**Please bring side dish to feed
your family + 1.** Each committee
chair will provide brief message on
what his or her committee does and
what is needed.

The Christian Education Committee is interested in your opinions about our Sunday School program. We have designed a brief survey and would love for you to give us your feedback. Your answers are anonymous and we encourage every person in your household who has an opinion or feedback on the topic to complete a survey. If you are a family whose ideas and attendance patterns are all the same, you can just do one survey together. Use your discretion in determining how many you need to complete to adequately represent the members of your household. We will read all answers and take your feedback into consideration as we plan for the future of the programs here at Holy Comforter. We really want to know what we are doing well, what we are not, and what kinds of opportunities you want to see offered in the future. Please help us realize our potential and better meet the wants and needs of our community through your participation. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Simply go to the link www.surveymonkey.com/s/FBV95PW to begin.



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Daniel Dowd
Ferrie Hedrick
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander

Bill & Pauline Joye
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Carol Posey
Mabel Ratchford
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
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
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles
Alex Yount

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



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. Send your request to holycomforter@gmail.com.

Best wishes to you in your educational journey.
Carmen De Nicholas, Scholarship Ministry



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.



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 on Sundays March 8th & 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).

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