### Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 30, 2014

### The Fourth Sunday in Lent



John Propst Interim Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

### **GATHERING/WELCOME**



- P For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

(Sing Response)

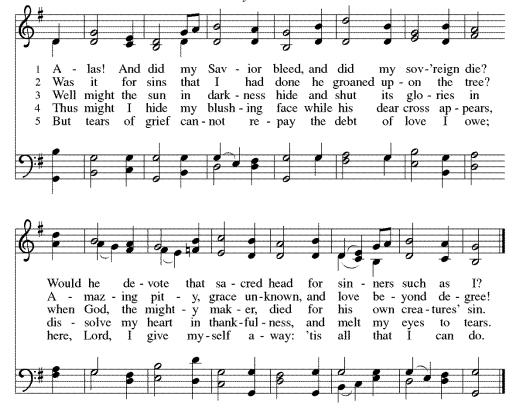
- P For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

(Sing Response)

P Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by baptism into his death, your sins are forgiven. The death Christ died, he died to sin, once and for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also, by the power of the holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

**GATHERING SONG:** Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



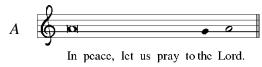
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

#### GREETING

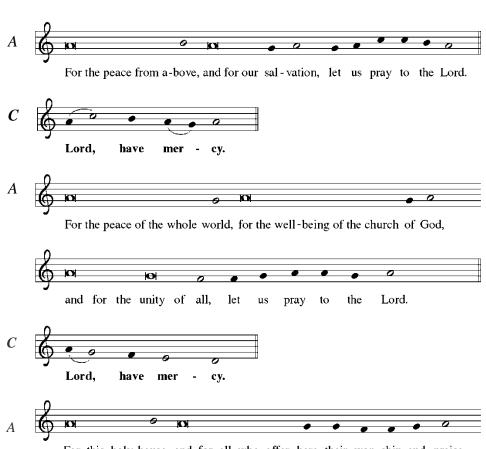
P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

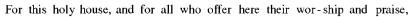
C And also with you.

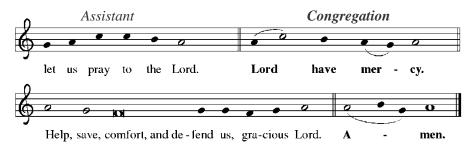
### **KYRIE**











### PRAYER OF THE DAY

### P Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### C Amen.

#### 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 1 Samuel 16:1–13

A reading from the sixteenth chapter of 1 Samuel.

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his

brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

### **SECOND READING**

Ephesians 5:8–14

A reading from the fifth chapter of Ephesians.

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

<sup>8</sup>For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





GOSPEL John 9:1-41

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." 16Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others

said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered

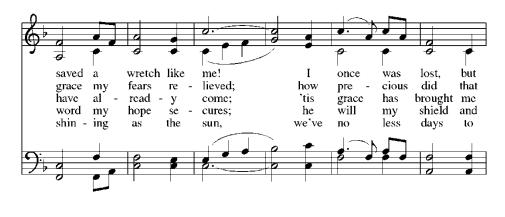
them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Amazing Grace . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing







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.

### 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**

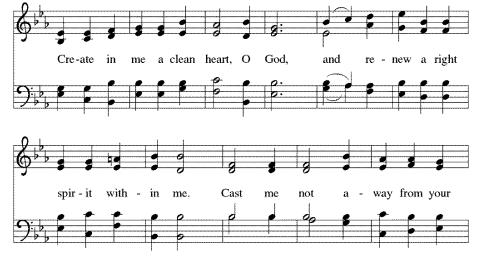
So much to sing about, so much to praise you for, so much I cannot live without, and so much more: at which display of majesty the very stones are moved to shout.

So much to sing about: once orphaned and alone, how could I dare believe the news that you would come to live and die, for me! And so make sure my welcome home.

So much to sing about: your wisdom, might, and love, that even three-score years and ten are not enough to count your gifts and search beneath the surface of your treasure trove.

So much to sing about: all I have seen and heard, your glory in my talents' use my best reward: that others see what I have seen and sing with me: "IT IS THE LORD!"

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



<sup>\*</sup> catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.



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

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

### A brief silence.

Anoint your church, O God, so that as children of light we shine brightly in a world that longs to know you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Restore the green pastures and still waters of this earth and lead us to be responsible stewards of all that you have created. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Shepherd all peoples. Break the barriers of hatred and prejudice between those of different races, faiths, genders, age, ability, and sexual orientation, that we live peaceably together. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring goodness and mercy to all who suffer, that they not want for anything. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Be present in this assembly and open our eyes so that we look, not on outward appearance, but upon one another's hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

You have prepared a table for all who believe in you. We give you thanks for all our brothers and sisters in Christ who now dwell in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

### **DISMISSAL**

- A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> 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.

<u>KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:</u> 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 form on line at www.holyc.org.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke & Alec Via in loving memory of Bob King.

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

### Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 23, 2014:

Attendance: 140

## Budget Report March 23, 2014 Current Offering Received 3/23/14 \$ 3,103.32 Weekly Expenses \$ 4,504.60 Offering, Year-To-Date \$ 50,309.75

The Current Offering Received for the year through March 23, 2014 is \$ 3,572.19 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr. + **SOLOIST:** Greg Byrum

Steve Bingham

GREETER: Katie Kessen
ACOLYTES: Claire Mitchell

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

Today: Misty Koehler & Katie Kessen

CRUCIFERS: Cody Koehler, Gage Gatlin

April 6: Melissa Bocchino & Mandi Kline

CANTOR: Matt Smith TELLERS: Janet Achor,

Dennis Tucker

**USHERS:** Volunteers Needed For April: Jerri & Mike Wesson

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3) Courtney Gatlin
Fran Holland, Co-Captain Stephanie Hinson
Melinda Lingerfelt. Co-Captain Tracev Nault

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, March 30

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbell Choir

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, April 1

5:45 pm Lenten dinner

6:30 pm Mid-Week Worship

**Lord's Prayer** by

Mark Kline: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us

from evil.

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: March 30 - April 5

March 31 Pat Long

April 1 Barbara Kasmer

April 3 Garrett Carpenter

April 4

Sherry Alexander
Sandra Cline

Myra Hollar

April 5 Angela Baakko

Taylor Buchanan

### Lent 2014: Midweek Worship on Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

(Following our Lenten meal at **5:45 pm**)

Our theme will be the *Lord's Prayer*. Below are the petitions, dates and those who will be sharing. THANKS friends, for answering God's call to meditate on one of the petitions! You are a blessing to God AND to those who will hear God's Word through you!

Mark Kline: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. April 1 April 8

**Julia Gunter:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.



### HOLYWEEK SCHEDULE



April 17: Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion is at 7:00 pm April 18: Good Friday Service with Crucifixion mime is at 7:00 pm April 19: Children's Egg Hunt [Ages 2 (Toddler) - 5th Grade] "Rolling Away the Stone," 10:00-12 Noon, no meal

April 20: Easter Sunrise at 7:30 am outside, weather permitting Easter Breakfast after Sunrise service \* No Children's Sunday School Easter Regular Worship with Holy Communion is at 10:30 am in the sanctuary

Our guest worship leader this morning, Matt Smith, is a senior at LTSS. Pray for Matt and other seniors as they are discerning their first call in the ministry.

### The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Forms Available.

### 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 (Email the church office at holycomforter@gmail.com and request Lineberger Scholarship Form.)

Our best wishes to you in your educational journey. Your Scholarship Ministry, Carmen De Nicholas

Eligible members for 2013 Thrivent Choice Dollars reminded to have your designations in by March 31, 2014. Questions? Call Myra Hollar 704-825-5885



Communion will be offered after the worship service immediately after the congregation has been greeted at the back of the church.

Please join Beth Brittain and Matt Smith at the altar to receive the sacraments.





Camp Agape Rising 1st Graders — Rising 8th Graders!

This year we are expanding the day camp to include 6th-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 at the back of the church or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$125 per camper and is <u>due at the time of registration</u>. There is only room for 20 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.

Misty Koehler, Holy Comforter Camp Coordinator



Jason Gardner

### PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise AustinRichard HoldenLiz PropstVirginia CrumpZac HullanderMabel RatchfordDaniel DowdChase LinebergerMark ReeseFerrie HedrickPat Long & Family

### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Kathy Beam Ruth Lail Shore Family Megan Sigler Dale Burris Peggy McKenney & Family **Grady Nichols** Ronnie Hagy Ramona J. Sinclair Sandra Nix Brian Hedrick Jimmy Surratt Paul Outlaw Kathy Helton Harrison Swindell Betty Fox Jean Peters Charmaine Townsend **Taylor Propst & Family Buck Weatherford** Claudia Frazier Ronnie Hersey David Prouty Beverly F. Wall Dennis Jordan Mara Rappleyea Gloria Ward Wesley Jordan & Family Joel Rivers (NY) Brvan Wavburn

Betty Kannapel Steve Sanford

Laura Lanuto & Family Kelly Shoe

### **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Dillon Kasmer Jeremy Shaver

#### **OUR MISSIONARIES**

Austin & Tanya Propst (Yount 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 let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

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



# Easter Lily Order

### For Sunday, April 20, 2014

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. <u>Deadline to place your order is April 13, 2014</u>.

Easter Lily Order Form		
Your Name:		
Telephone #:	Numbe	er 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.

### **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

John Propst, Interim Pastor; email: JohnCPropst@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager