Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 11, 2014

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

John Propst Interim Pastor



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

PRELUDE: Lord, I Want To Be A Christian In My Heart Children's Ensemble

Lord, I want to be a Christian In My Heart.

Lord, I want to be more Loving In My Heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus In My Heart.

WELCOME/GATHERING

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, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

C Amen.

P Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God of life,

C by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new. Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

P People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: All People That on Earth Do Dwell All Stand & Sing



Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

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.







- For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im passioned re sponse to the
- For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise, we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace, life and for love, . . . for our work and our play, nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



GLORY TO GOD All Sing Refrain and Verses







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

FIRST READING Acts 2:42–47

A reading from the second chapter of Acts.

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was outpoured on God's people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19–25

A reading from the second chapter of 1 Peter.

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly in the midst of adversity.

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that

you should follow in his steps.

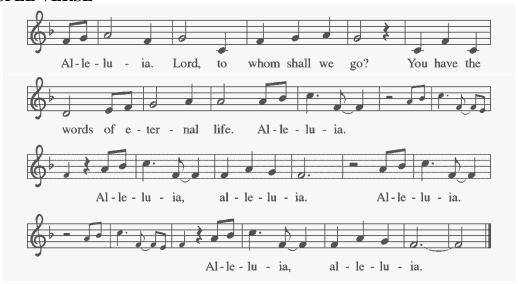
²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL John 10:1–10

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

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock.

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

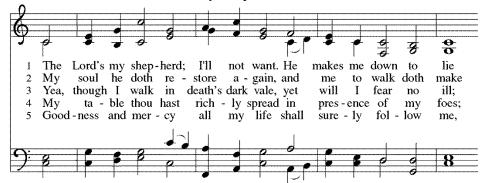
⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

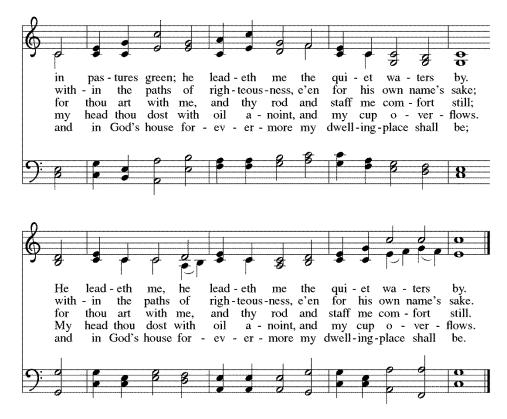
- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: *The Good Shepherd*..... (Notes: Page 15 & 16)..... Pastor John



HYMN OF THE DAY: The Lord's My Shepherd All Stand & Sing





Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895–1984 Arr. © Oxford University Press.

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: The Fullness of God Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Create In Me All Stand & Sing



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made alive in Christ and filled with his Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God: Your voice sings in the church. Bless our worship, that sharing bread in communion, we also share abundantly with people in every place. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Your voice sings in creation. Preserve pastures and city parks, oceans and local water sources, so that nature provides life and protection for all creatures. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Your voice sings among the nations. Curb the desire for vengeance; turn us from dishonest speech and deceitful living; lead us in your truth. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Your voice sings among those in need: the poor, the homeless, the suffering, the afflicted, the ill and hospitalized; for those who will die this day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sings in our homes. Open the hearts of those who provide mothering care, that Christ's love would be revealed in the generosity shown to all our children. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for and honor the senior ministries of Lutheran Services Carolinas. Bless their residents and participants, as well as the caregivers and volunteers, so that all may know Your love. Help us to cherish and practice the traditions that honor You by remembering and supporting those who are most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who, having followed your voice in this life, now dwell with you forever, joining their voices in endless praise. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and dwell in us richly, through Jesus Christ, our life and our redeemer.

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.

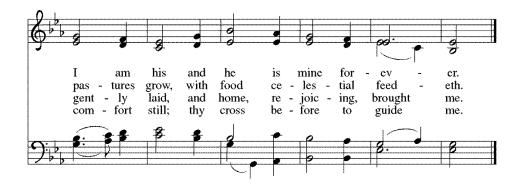
BLESSING

P The God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* All Stand & Sing





- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION for those who desire it will be offered at the alter after church.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **Fourth 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.

<u>CHILDREN</u> 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.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Mike & Jerri Wesson in honor of their 8th wedding anniversary and the 6th birthday of twin granddaughters Breanna & Mikayla Robinson; and by Bob & Denise Wiegand in honor of Jennifer Perez's birthday.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, May 4, 2014:

Attendance. 140	
Budget Report	May 4
Current Offering Received 5/4/14	\$ 4,649.04
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,504.60
Offering, YTD	\$ 76,355.58
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 5,851.78
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	(\$ 4,291.09)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Attendance: 140

LECTOR: Billy Joye + Louise Day

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

ACOLYTES: Garrett Carpenter

Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain
Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Garrett Fox Barbara Kasmer

CRUCIFERS: Aaron Nault CANTOR: Greg Byrum

Ashton Nault

ANTHEM CONDUCTOR: Raini Kimball GREETER: Kathy Graves

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: (9:30-11:45 am) TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin

Today, Misty Koehler & Ashley Ange Bill Hollar

May 18: Melissa Bocchino

May 25: Pat Koehler USHERS: Need Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, May 11

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

10:30 am The Service

Church Council After Happy Mother's Day!

6:00 pm **HCY**

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, May 13

12 Noon–1:00 pm New Bible Study/

Luncheon. Pastor John leads.

Bring potluck OR a sandwich.

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Saturday, May 17 Kids' Club

11:00 am Davis Park. Bag lunch & play.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: May 11-17

May 12 Jennifer Wiegand Perez

May 16 Sherry Perry



The Good Shepherd + Sermon notes

1) Our need for a shepherd

"For you were going astray like sheep" - today's 2nd Reading (1 Peter 2:25a from <u>NRSV</u>) or "You were lost sheep with no idea who you were or where you were going."

(The Message)

As a believer, maybe you're feeling a bit "sheepish" today? Maybe because it's what we know about sheep ...

- > They are helpless
- They lack a sense of direction
- > They are easily frightened

2) Jesus is the Good Shepherd

He knows the sheep

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me."

(John 10:14 from NRSV)

- > He knows our names
- He knows our nature
- He is faithful to lead the way

"When He has brought out all His own, He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow." (verse 4 from NRSV)

He lays down His life

"And I lay down My life for the sheep." (verse 14 from NRSV)

3) Jesus is the Gate (today's Gospel reading)

+ + + + + + +

Now ... feeling better about your life as a sheep in the fold!

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin	Cher Grant	Chase Lineberger
Scott Caldwell	Ferrie Hedrick	Rochelle Potter
Virginia Crump	Richard Holden	Mabel Ratchford
Brenda Dabrowski	Zac Hullander	Mark Reese
Daniel Dowd	John Kreitzer	

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

The Abernethy Family	Betty Kannapel	Mara Rappleyea
Harriett Ange	Becky Knick	Earl Riedley
Kathy Beam	Laura Lanuto & Family	Steve Sanford
Dale Burris	Pierce Lee	Megan Sigler
Ronnie Hagy	Peggy McKenney & Family	Ramona J. Sinclair
Brian Hedrick	Grady Nichols	Jimmy Surratt
Kathy Helton	Sandra Nix	Harrison Swindell
Betty Fox	Roger Norris	Buck Weatherford
Claudia Frazier	Jean Peters	Beverly F. Wall
Ronnie Hersey	Leland "Lee" Peterson	Gloria Ward
Dennis Jordan	Taylor Propst & Family	Bryan Wayburn
Wesley Jordan & Family	David Prouty	

Jason Gardner



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.



The modern holiday of *Mother's Day* was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother in Grafton, West Virginia. She then began a campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States. Although she was successful in 1914, she was already disappointed with its commercialization by the 1920s. Jarvis' holiday was adopted by other countries and it is now

celebrated all over the world. In this tradition, each person offers a gift, card, or remembrance toward their mothers, grandmothers, and/ or maternal figure on mother's day.

Various observances honoring mothers existed in America during the 1870s and the 1880s, but these never had resonance beyond the local level. Jarvis never mentioned Julia Ward Howe's attempts in the 1870s to establish a "Mother's Day for Peace", nor any connection to the Protestant school celebrations that included "Children's Day" amongst others. Neither did she mention the traditional festival of Mothering Sunday.

In 1912, Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrases "second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day", and created the Mother's Day International Association. She specifically noted that "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers of the world."

Quotes about mothers from mothers:

"To nourish children and raise them against odds is any time, any place, more valuable than to fix bolts in cars or design nuclear weapons." -- Marilyn French

"The phrase 'working mother' is redundant." -- Jane Sellman

"My mother could make anybody feel guilty -- she used to get letters of apology from people she didn't even know." -- Joan Rivers

"The best way to keep children home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant -- and let the air out of the tires." -- Dorothy Parker

"Motherhood brings as much joy as ever, but it still brings boredom, exhaustion, and sorrow too. Nothing else ever will make you as happy or as sad, as proud or as tired, for nothing is quite as hard as helping a person develop his own individuality especially while you struggle to keep your own." -- Marquerite Kelly and Elia Parsons



Saturday, May 17 at 11:00 am Meet at Davis Park in Belmont Bring bag lunch for picnic and then playing!



May 18 - Confirmation Sunday Gage Gatlin & Luke Via Confirmands



May 25 Memorial Day Outdoor Worship Service (Weather Permitting)



June 8 Pentecost Sunday *Pig Pickin*' after the Service

Bring side dish and/or dessert Meat & drink provided



SAVE THE DATE: June 27-28 (Friday evening and Saturday) is the date for our Vacation Bible School for Pre-K through Grade 5. We will begin on Friday with a pizza supper and will end just before lunch on Saturday so everyone can go on their way for the rest of the Saturday afternoon.

Make plans now to attend.

NOTE: After getting input from the parents of our children, the decision has been made to **NOT have Sunday school for all children after May 25**. We will start fresh with Rally Day on August 24. **Children's Church** will continue through the summer as volunteers are available to lead.

Beth Brittain, Christian Education



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



Senior Services Month May 2014

Today as mothers are honored and celebrated, it is also the perfect time to honor all of those older adults who provide a loving presence in our lives and in our church families. It is important to take the time

to celebrate the accomplishments of our seniors and thank them for all they do.

Lutheran Services Carolinas is your ministry for older adults. Last year alone your support helped LSC provide care and services for 2,269 senior adults. These services would be impossible without your support. For more information on the ministries of LSC, visit www.LSCarolinas.net or call 1-800-HELPING.



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