Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street
 Belmont, NC 28012
 April 17, 2016
 holycomforter@gmail.com
 704-825-2483
 www.holyc.org

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Processional in D* David Johnson

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, \oplus one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- C Amen.
- P Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God of grace and glory,
- C you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.
- P Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and \oplus frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

C Amen.

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



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

GREETING

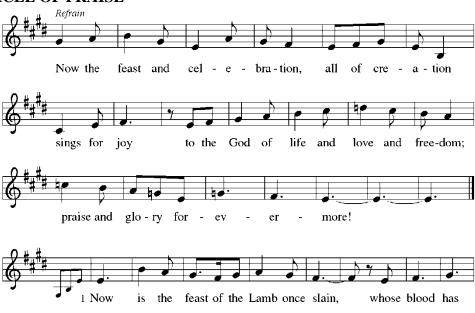
- P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- C And also with you.

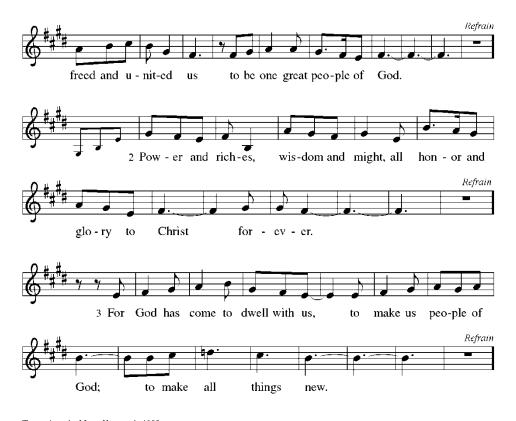
KYRIE





CANTICLE OF PRAISE





Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text and music: © 1990 GIA Publications. Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358,
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SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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 9:36-43

A reading from the ninth chapter of Acts.

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing was well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from the seventh chapter of Revelation.

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

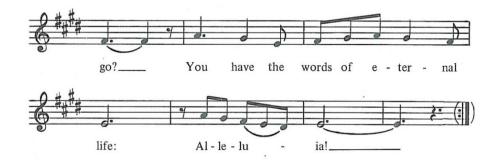
¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE





GOSPEL JOHN 10:22-30

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

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: 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

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

A brief silence.

Holy and mighty God, fulfill your saving work on behalf of all who give thanks for your great love for this creation. Make our song strong enough to invite all hurting people into your family. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Make us ever conscious of how we use and consume the gifts you have given us on the earth and in the oceans. Open our eyes to see creation as good, useful, and worthy of care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give your wisdom to people who make decisions that affect others. Fill human institutions with your reconciling justice. When we oppress people, disrupt us and heal our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Respond to the call of people who cry out in grief, in loneliness or despair, or in chronic pain or illness (*especially*). Embrace them with your compassion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With your very presence sustain communities that are formed out of common struggle: among those who are widowed, among children without parents, and among people who have no permanent shelter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give strength to the saints by fulfilling your promise of eternal life. Shepherd us in paths of righteousness, that we may know life now and in the age to come. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison, Our faith had been in vain.

But now has Christ arisen, a risen, arisen, arisen.

Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river. Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. *Refrain*

My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number. *Refrain*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: As the Grains of Wheat All Stand & Sing

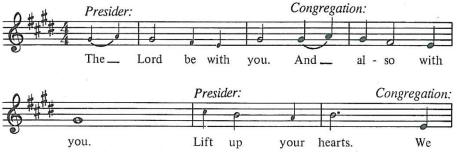


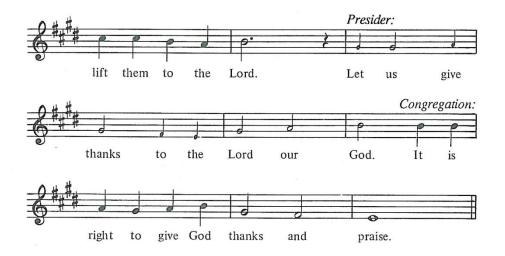
OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

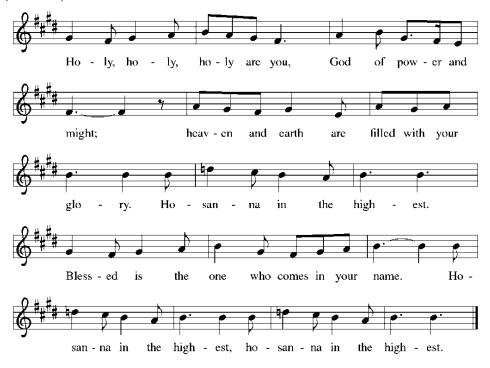




PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

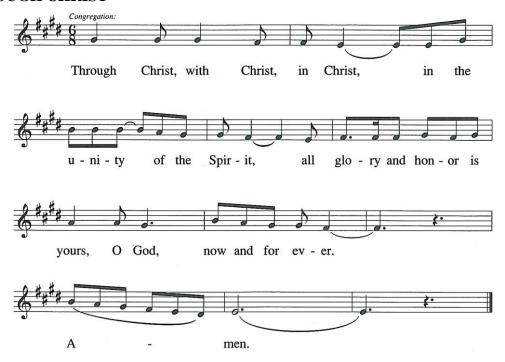
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P ... and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

THROUGH CHRIST



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.

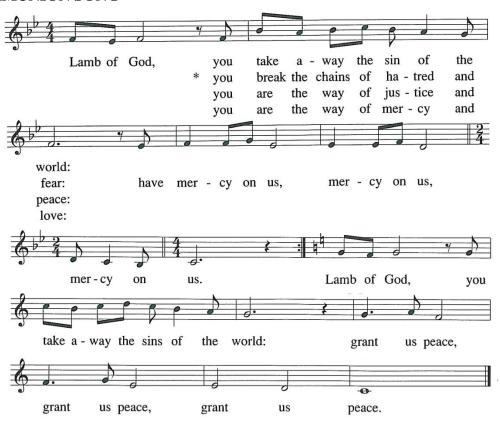
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.
- C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG





COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need* All Sing



- 1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho ly is your name.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
- 3 The sure pro vi sions of my God at tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream. one word of your sup-port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way. oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan-d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways, Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread; Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

my cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.

no more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23 Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

- P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A We give you thanks, O God,

C that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of \oplus Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

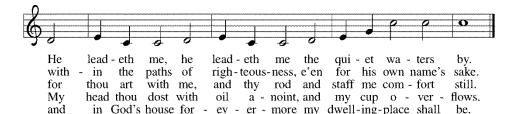
SENDING SONG: *The Lord's My Shepherd* All Stand & Sing



- 1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and
- e makes me down to lie d me to walk doth make
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet
- will I fear no ill; pres-ence of my foes
- 4 My ta ble thou hast rich ly spread in 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall
- pres-ence of my foes; sure - ly fol - low me,



pas - tures green; he qui - et lead - eth me the wa - ters by. with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake: with me, and thy rod and for thou art staff me com - fort still; head thou dost with a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows. my oil in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall and



Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

DISMISSAL

- A Alleluia. 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 **Fourth Sunday after 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. 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 Rebecca Yount in honor of Mark Yount and their wedding anniversary; and by Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke & Alec Via celebrating God for the blessing of Jake MacDonald.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 10, 2016:

Attendance: 124

Budget ReportApril 10, 2016Current Offering Received 4/10/16\$ 11,423.00Weekly Budget Expenses\$ 5,019.46Offering, Year-To-Date\$ 81,368.00Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD\$ 11,143.53Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD\$ 8,950.23

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. **GREETERS:** The Potters

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers TELLERS:

Rochelle & Danny Potter
ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

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

Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Amanda Kelly

USHERS: Volunteers

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) Infants: Jill Cassel; Toddlers: Veronica Bryant

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers FLUTE: Julia Gunter

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Rochelle & Danny Potter

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: April 17-23

Today, Jody Flowers April 23 Tim Baker

April 19 Jake MacDonald

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, April 17 9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service

With Holy Communion

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, April 19

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Wednesday, April 20

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

"Spiritual Gifts"

Thursday, April 21

7:00 pm Evangelism meeting

Saturday, April 23

11:00 am-2:00 pm Earth Day at

Goat Island Park!

EARTH DAY



Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School 2016

DATE: June 26-29th • 6:00-7:45 pm

This summer, Holy Comforter is providing kids an adventure like no other, deep within the mysterious sea. Our Vacation Bible School program will allow children to submerge themselves in God's Word. They will discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people. He looked deep down on the inside. So grab your goggles, step into your flippers, and prepare to register your kids for diving below the surface to find the truth!



A quick meal will be provided, then the children rotate through activities of play, studying scripture, singing, and art. Parents are welcome to stay or take this time for themselves. Information about registering will be coming soon. If you are interested in helping with the program, you would be welcomed, whether it's providing a meal or assisting with one of the activity stations. **More formal guidance and materials will be provided for all volunteers.** Contact Melissa Bocchino at Melissa.bocchino@pwc.com.



Holy Comforter is hosting *Camp Agape* the week of July 18-22. Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we will again include 6th-rising 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 in the narthex or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis. Contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

Misty Koehler, Camp Coordinator



BCO items for the month: Crackers & Rice





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
David Dowd
Ardean Ewing
Diann Halvorson &
Dot Holland
Zack Hullander
Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Family

Mark Reese Beverley Reynolds Anna Spikes Kevin Washle

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Marguerite Shive

Richard Abernethy Tammy Gordon **David Prouty** Brian Hedrick Harriett Ange Julio Quiros Paige Beaver Sam Holloway Anna Rudder Jenny Beer Stacy Hunsucker Tangle Shingler Megan Sigler Barbara Bingham Dennis Jordan Graham Brezler E. Taylor & Family Steven Keating Libby Byrum Marshall Kinley Carson Thomas Father Frank Cancro Terry Mahaffey Sally Vanhov Al McCov Pat Via Tina Capwell Clell Davis Clay McCoy Gloria Ward Pastor Gary Weant J. Don Devine Gene McRorie Zachary Evans Don Moore Olivia Wilcox Jeff Wiles Jamey Gardner Jean Peters Poss Garrett Bruce Zander Jim Poag Ronnie Garrison **Taylor Propst & Family**

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek Leo Kasmer
Jason Gardner Tom Kasmer
Dillon Kasmer Mike Kelso

Jeremy Shaver



Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Kathy Graves.

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



Then the Lord took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. Genesis 2:15



Plan to visit with Holy Comforter as we celebrate *Earth Day*, April 23 from 11:00am—2:00pm at Goat Island Park! We will be hosting TWO booths at this event: a children's binocular craft and an informative booth discussing topics such as waste reduction, biodegradable products, and plastic recycling codes. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Deb Bingham, csbdkb@aol.com or Katie Kessen, ktkssn112@aol.com. We ask the congregation to gather their empty toilet paper rolls for our craft...a collection box will be in the fellowship hall.

Stewardship Committee

Sunday, April 24 HCY will be going to Sky High Sports (Trampoline Place)

Meet at the church at 5:30 pm and return by 8:00 pm
Cost is \$19.50 per child and includes 90 minutes of play time!

Please RSVP to Kristen Williams (keclanton@gmail.com or 704-678-0137)

By April 17th if you plan to attend.



HELP NEEDED IN THE NURSERIES

Do you enjoy being around children? Would you be willing to spend a morning on Sundays from 9:30 am-11:45 am helping in one of our church nurseries? If so, please add your name to the "nursery sign-up sheet"

located in the narthex. Two volunteers are needed each Sunday for the 'Infants," ages Birth-18 months, one volunteer is needed for the "Toddler" nursery, ages 18-months-3 years. If you are willing to help, sign up in the narthex or email Melissa Bocchino @ melissa.bocchino@pwc.com.

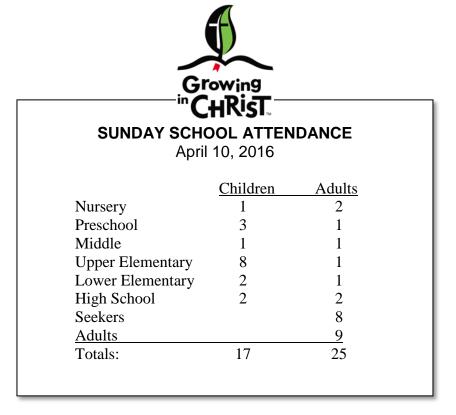
The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry



The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship applications are due April 24th. Any qualifying church member may apply. Forms are available via email. Just email holycomforter@gmail.com and request an application form. You may fill in the form on-line, but must print it out so it can be signed by both student and parent/guardian.

Only those applications including the required transcript and essay received by the April 24th deadline will be considered.

Thank You, The Scholarship Ministry



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: MicahKearney@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager