

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 22, 2015

## The Fifth Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Ave Verum Corpus* . . . . . Mozart

### 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.*

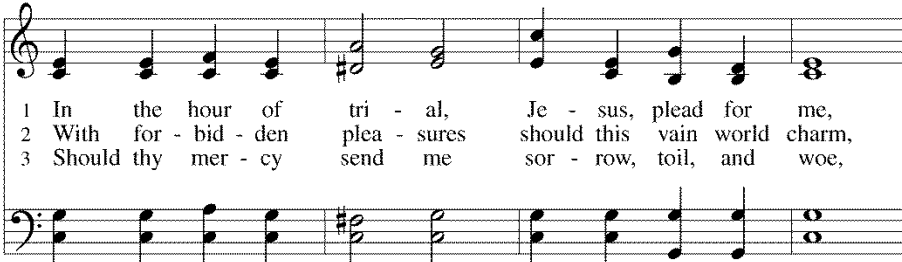
P Gracious God,

**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: *In the Hour of Trial* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



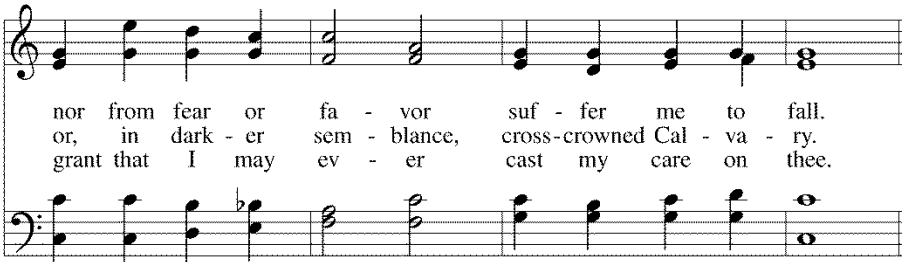
1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me,  
 2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm,  
 3 Should thy mer - cy send me sor - row, toil, and woe,



lest by base de - ni - al I de - part from thee.  
 or its sor - did trea - sures spread to work me harm,  
 or should pain at - tend me on my path be - low,



When thou seest me wa - ver, with a look re - call;  
 bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne,  
 grant that I may nev - er fail thy hand to see;



nor from fear or fa - vor suf - fer me to fall.  
 or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross-crowned Cal - va - ry.  
 grant that I may ev - er cast my care on thee.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854  
 Music: PENITENCE. Spencer Lane, 1843–1903

## 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



Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

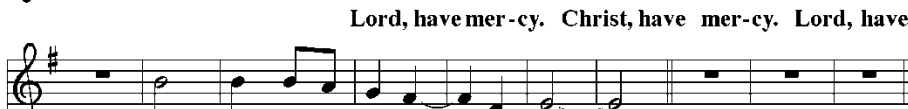
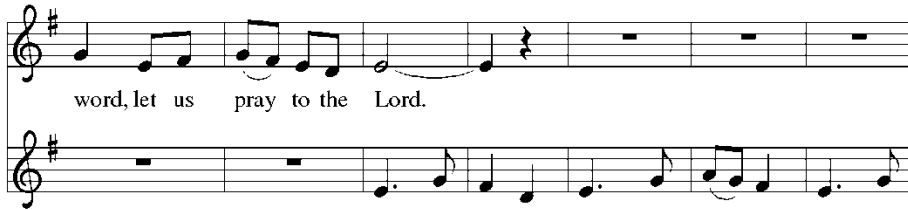
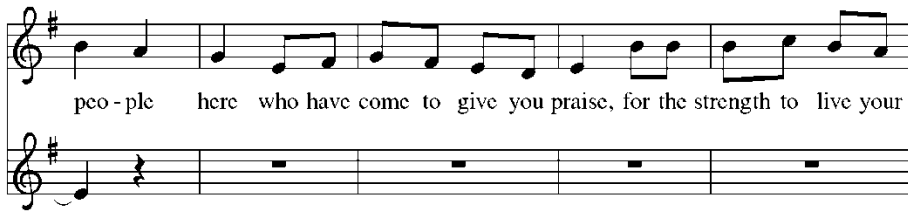
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



## SALUTATION



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

**Jeremiah 31:31–34**

A reading from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah.

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**PSALM ANTHEM: 51:10–12** *Create in Me . . . . .* Church Choir

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 5:5–10**

A reading from the fifth chapter of Hebrews.

*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you";

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek."

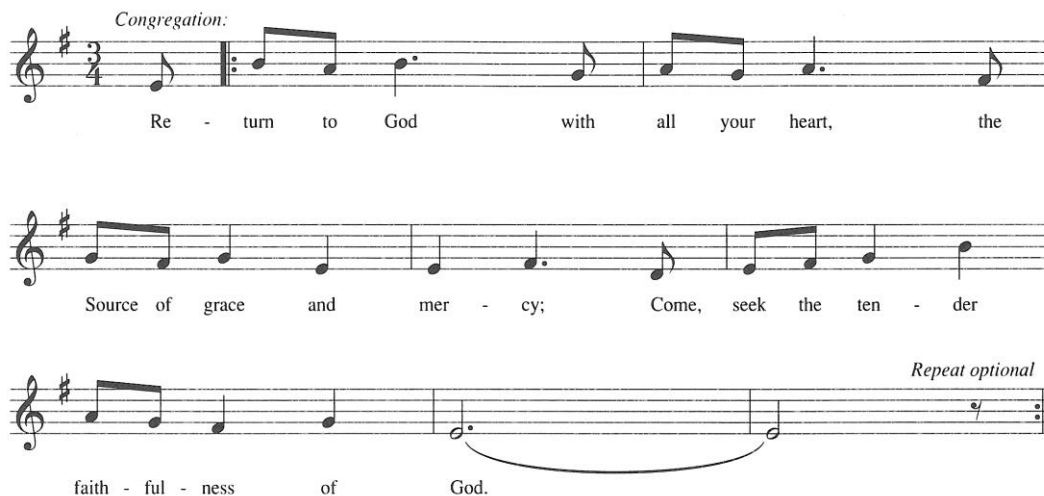
<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL VERSE

*Congregation:*



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the  
Source of grace and mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der  
faith - ful - ness of God.

*Repeat optional*

## GOSPEL

**John 12:20–33**

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

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

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.



<sup>27</sup>Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

**SERMON** ..... Pastor Micah

# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Our Father, We Have Wandered . . . . . All Stand & Sing*



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.



## **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.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Grant Peace* ..... Chamber Choir

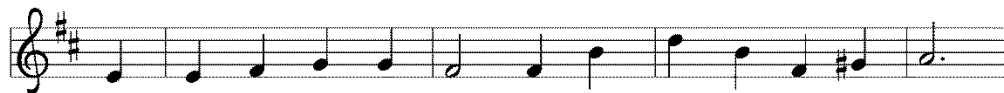
**OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *O Jesus, I Have Promised* . . . . . All Stand & Sing  
Verses 1 & 4 Only**



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.  
Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

**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.*

Gracious God, keep your church firm in faith, so that it might trust in your goodness even when the way is difficult and the future seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As the earth spins through another change of season, awaken trees and flowers from their winter's rest. Bring forth grain from the earth and fruit from the vine. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to nations devastated by war and violence. Teach leaders to trust in your deep and abiding peace and make all of us instruments of that holy peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You come into a broken world that is never beyond your repair. Heal those who feel the effects of illness and injury in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bless the ministries of teachers and mentors in the faith and be with those preparing for baptism. Send newcomers into our midst, and prepare us to welcome them. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Remember your covenant with us, and write it on our hearts until we join with all the saints around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**hear our prayer.**

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: *Just As I Am* ..... All Stand & Sing

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871  
 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## 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 **The Fifth 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Beth & Reid Passer in honor of Daphne Hansen and in memory of Bill Hansen.

**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, March 8, 2015:**

Attendance: 151

## **Budget Report**

Current Offering Received 3/15/2015  
Weekly Budgeted Expenses  
Offering, Year-To-Date  
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, Year-To-Date  
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, Year-To-Date

## **March 15, 2015**

\$ 3,453.00  
\$ 4,598.27  
\$ 52,351.95  
\$ 3,578.81  
\$ 2,648.65

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## **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr., Tom Bocchino

**GREETER:** Volunteer

**ACOLYTE:** Need Volunteer

**CRUCIFER:** Need Volunteer

## **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Maria & Madison Carr

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

Melissa Bocchino

## **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)

Dian Halvorson, Co-Captain

Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer

**TELLERS:** Janet & Brian Achor

**USHERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly

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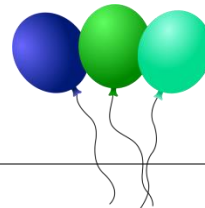
## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: March 22-28**

Today, March 22 Louise Day

March 24 Tim Baakko

March 25 Pat Koehler

March 26 Hailey Ange  
Cher Grant



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## **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

### **Today, March 22**

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  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

### **Wednesday, March 25**

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner  
6:45 pm **Lenten Worship**  
Chamber Choir & **Christian Ed** after

### **Thursday, March 26**

7:00 pm **Evangelism Committee**  
Meet in the parlor

### **Tuesday, March 24**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

### **Saturday, March 28**

8:30 am **WORKDAY AT HC**  
Landscape playground;  
Clean Storage room





## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Daniel Dowd  
Ferrie Hedrick  
Faye Heller  
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander  
Bill & Pauline Joye  
Chase Lineberger  
Rianna & Thomas Nance  
Holly Peche  
Carol Posey

Mark Reese  
Beverly Reynolds  
George Roberson  
Marguerite Shive  
Dennis Tucker

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Pam Anderson Family  
Harriett Ange  
Paige Beaver  
Jenny Beer  
Father Frank Cancro  
Tina Capwell  
Clell Davis  
J. Don Devine  
Jamey Gardner  
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  
Gloris Ward  
Pastor Gary Weant  
Olivia Wilcox  
Jeff Wiles  
Alex Yount

## OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek  
Jason Gardner



Dillon Kasmer  
Alex Norris

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](http://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 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 24<sup>th</sup>:**
  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 form the church office by filling in Lineberger Scholarship in the subject line. Send your request to [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**All completed applications along with the required transcript and typed essay must be returned to the church office by the April 24<sup>th</sup> deadline.** Any received after this date will not be considered.

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 today, 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.

For Rising 1st - Rising 8th Graders  
**July 13-18**  
**Agape**  
**Day Camp**



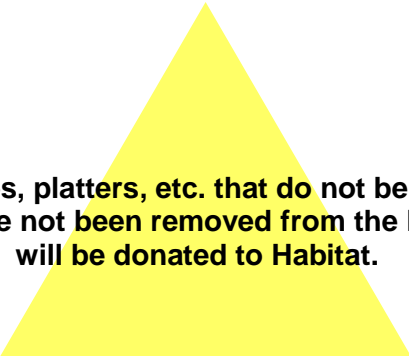
Get your registration forms from Misty Koehler.  
**Cost: \$130/camper** due at time of registration.  
 Only 20 spaces available...*first come, first served.*

**Evangelism Committee Meeting**  
 Thursday, March 26, 2015  
 7:00 pm in the Church Parlor

**Sunday School Attendance for March 15, 2015**



	Children	Adults
Nursery	3	2
Pre-K	6	2
God's Eden	10	1
Seekers		14
Adult Bible Class		17
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>



**All remaining dishes, platters, etc. that do not belong to the church  
and have not been removed from the kitchen  
will be donated to Habitat.**

**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)  
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education  
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor  
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager