

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 12, 2017 •

## The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Trumpet Voluntary* ..... Bennett

### 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 calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

**C Amen.**

**P** One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*


**P** O God, our merciful redeemer,

**C** we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for ☩ his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.

**C Amen.**



# GATHERING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers. . . . .* All Stand & Sing





1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;


the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace 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.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have  
Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.  
mer - cy. A - men.

## GLORY TO GOD

Pastor  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

All  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Pastor All  
To God be glo-ry for-ev - er! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system features the Pastor's melody on a treble clef staff, with lyrics 'Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!' and 'Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!'. Below this, Group 1 and Group 1, 2 are shown with their respective parts. The second system continues the Pastor's melody and the group parts. The third system shows the Pastor's final phrase and the group parts concluding with a final chord marked with an '8'.

Pastor  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Pastor  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2, 3  
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

Amos 5:18-24

A reading from the fifth chapter of Amos.

*In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

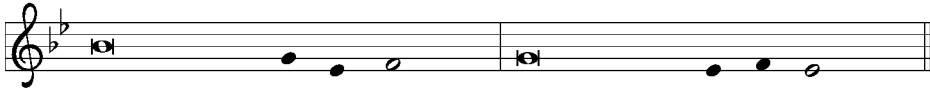
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



**PSALM 70** . . . . . All Sing

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;  
O LORD, make | haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me  
turn back because | of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is the LORD!”**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

**SECOND READING**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from the fourth chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL VERSE . . . . . All Stand & Sing**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

**P** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

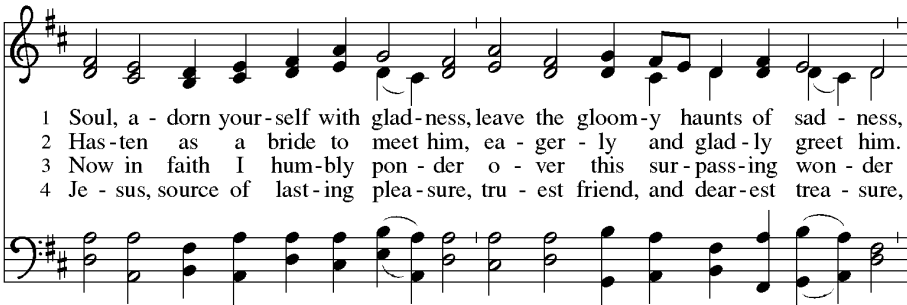
**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

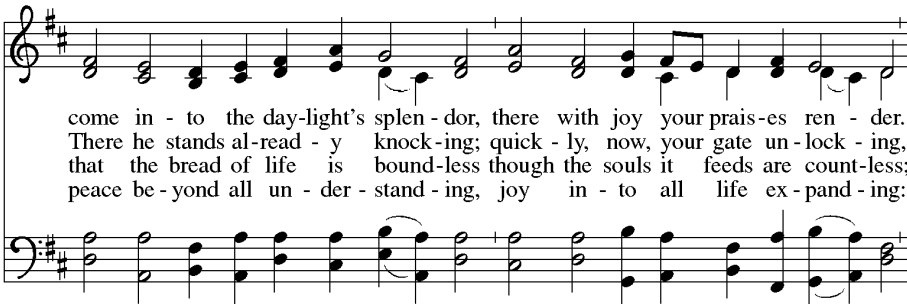
**SERMON . . . . . Pastor Micah**



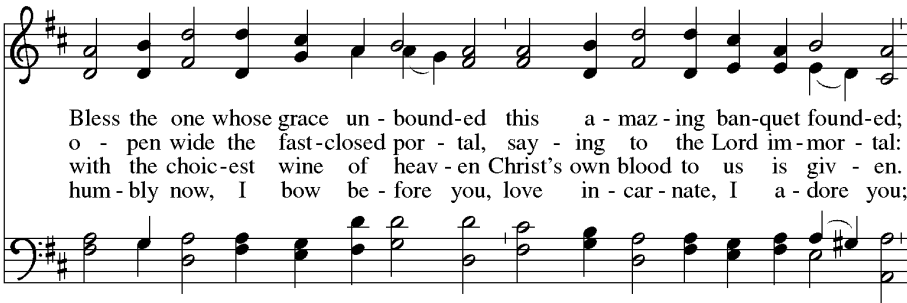
# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness . . . . . All Stand & Sing*



1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,  
 2 Has-ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.  
 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass-ing won - der  
 4 Je - sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru - est friend, and dear-est trea - sure,



come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.  
 There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing,  
 that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;  
 peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing;



Bless the one whose grace un - bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;  
 o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im-mor - tal:  
 with the choic-est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.  
 hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;



Christ, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er."  
 Oh, most glo - rious con - so-la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
 wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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



**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *When Long before Time* ..... Church Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Soon and Very Soon* ..... All Sing



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

*A brief silence.*

Awaken your church to be ready to respond when Christ meets us in the cries of those in need. We lift up the church's mission of care through Lutheran World Relief and other social service agencies of the Lutheran church. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for natural resources like oil, coal, trees, sun, water, and wind. Help us to use them wisely. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Answer the cries of your people in nations caught in war and destruction. Hold in your care all veterans and their families. Ease the burden of tough memories and bring restoration and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Shine your merciful and healing light on the despairing places of our minds and souls. Bring hope in the midst of danger, depression, and illness. We pray especially for victims of the shooting at Sutherland Springs Church in Texas. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Strengthen all bonds of friendship and relationship in our community. Give us joy in life together. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Keep us alert for Christ's coming, sustained by the promise that we will be reunited with all the faithful who have died. Thank you for their lives of witness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our 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** The love of God surround you; the grace of ✠ Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

**C** Amen.

# SENDING SONG: *Let Streams of Living Justice* . . . . . All Stand & Sing

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

## SENDING

**A** Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all our visitors on this **Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**. 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. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



Nurseries  
Available

**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 board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form on line at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Dianne Lail in honor of Joel Nichols' and Jeff Lail's birthdays.

**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, November 5, 2017:**

Attendance: 190

<b><u>Budget Report</u></b>	<b><u>November 5, 2017</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>
Offering	\$ 7,362.00	\$ 232,452.93
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 240,022.30
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 1,705.58</u>	<u>(\$ 7,569.37)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 249,140.90</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 16,687.97)</u>

### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Judy Caldwell

**GREETER:** Carmen Buell

### **ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Rochelle & Danny  
Potter

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

Carmen Buell, Captain  
Dean & Diann Halvorson  
Barbara Kasmer

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Krystyna Sarrazin

**USHERS:** Volunteers

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

*Infants:* Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: November 12-18**

Today, November 12 Libby Joye  
November 15 Laurel Mauney



November 16 Dylan Fox  
Bob Wiegand  
November 18 Brian Achor

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

#### **Today, Sunday, November 12**

9:00 am Handbells  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir  
10:30 am The Service  
Congregational meeting  
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
5:00 pm **HCY**, Go-Kart Racing  
6:00 pm Church Choir

#### **Wednesday, November 15**

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

#### **Saturday, November 18**

10:00 am **Kids' Club**  
Craft Project

#### **Tuesday, November 14**

7:00 pm Chamber Choir  
Nar-Anon





## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Carmen Buell  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Ardean Ewing  
Becke Featherstone  
Ned Featherstone  
Kay Holden

Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Jo Irwin  
Chase Lineberger  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Beverly Reynolds  
Kathie Schaumburg  
Jerri Wesson

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt  
Barbara Bingham  
Amy Beale Blythe  
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox  
Larry "Poss" Garrett  
Brandi Hager  
John McDermid

Jennifer Lineberger  
Anne Murdy  
Brody Thornburg  
Dennis Yates



Beau Carroll

## OUR SERVICEMEN

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Please remember these people in your prayers.

**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform the church office.**

The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).

## BCO November Items of the Month



### Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles/Pasta





There are 227 days till the  
Youth Gathering in Houston!

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Sunday School Attendance November 5, 2017

Preschool 4  
Elementary 12  
High School 0

Seekers 8  
Adults 4  
Total: 28



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## PB&J CAMPAIGN

The North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program is conducting its annual ***Peanut Butter & Jelly Campaign***. Peanut butter is something all food banks need. The collection of jelly was added because we were all once children, and we fondly remember peanut butter & jelly sandwiches as a staple of a happy childhood.

**Please place your donations of peanut butter and/or jelly in the labeled box located in the fellowship hall.** Your donations will be taken to the Guardian ad Litem office in the Gaston County courthouse. Donations will then be distributed to the food banks in the county.

The collection of peanut butter and jelly runs through January 12.



Peanut  
Butter  
& Jelly  
Campaign



[volunteerforal.org](http://volunteerforal.org)





## Holy Doodles



### **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street 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

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager



## Advent Wreath Order Form

With Advent right around the corner it is now time to order your family an Advent wreath. The following wreaths are \$10 each, and that includes 4 candles and a brass ring. Please place your order form with your check written to Holy Comforter (with a notation that it is for an *Advent Wreath*) in the offering plate or give to Beka.

**Deadline to place your order is Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of wreaths ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost @ \$10 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by check: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment by cash: \_\_\_\_\_