## Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 24, 2017

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



GATHERING/WELCOME . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Holy Comforter Carillon

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

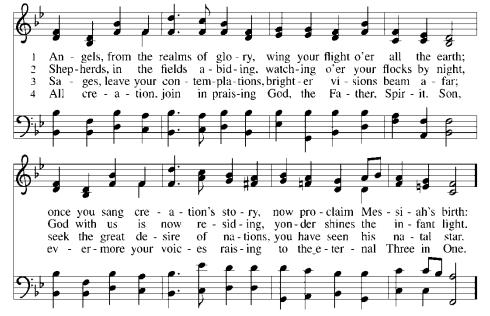
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

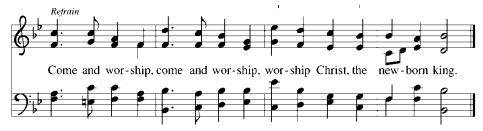
- P Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.
- C Amen.
- P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

## Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P God of all time,
- C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.
- P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In & Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!
- C Amen.

**GATHERING SONG:** Angels, from the Realms of Glory . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing





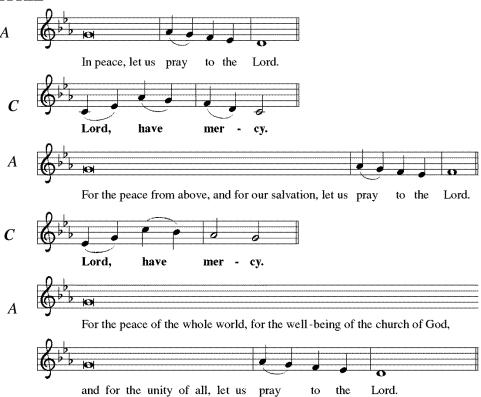
Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## **GREETING**

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

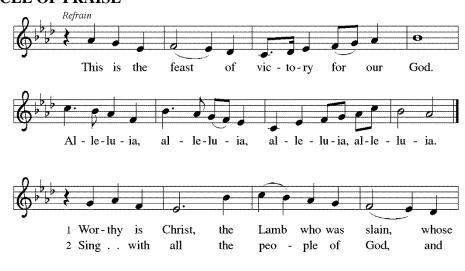
C And also with you.

## **KYRIE**





## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**





### PRAYER OF THE DAY

## P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

## Congregation is seated.

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

All elementary children 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.

A reading from the seventh chapter of 2 Samuel.

Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup> and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:** The fourth candle represents **LOVE**. Because of his love, all people are saved. Since God's love for us is perfect, may we perfect our answering love by loving one another.



#### SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the sixteenth chapter of Romans.

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

## **GOSPEL VERSE**



GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

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

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little-known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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



Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

A brief silence.

Your eternal reign has come into the world. Give us ears to hear your call to serve your kingdom, and send us out to those who are hurting and in need of good news. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You created the mystery and beauty of the earth. Replenish rivers, lakes, seas, and all bodies of water, so that plants, animals, and humans can have life and be refreshed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You bring down the powerful and raise up the lowly. Where war rages, shatter hatred with forgiveness and peace. Where fear rules, make your all-powerful and eternal presence known. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You remember us with mercy, Lord, as you have done for all generations. Fill us, comfort us, strengthen us, and enlighten us. Make your will known to all in need. Today we pray especially for . . . . Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You called Mary to bear your Son. We pray for pregnant women, for mothers and fathers of infants and small children, and especially for couples who bear the pain of infertility, miscarriage, or stillbirth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your kingdom has no end. With your servants throughout time, women and men, old and young, unite us forever in your reign of peace and joy. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

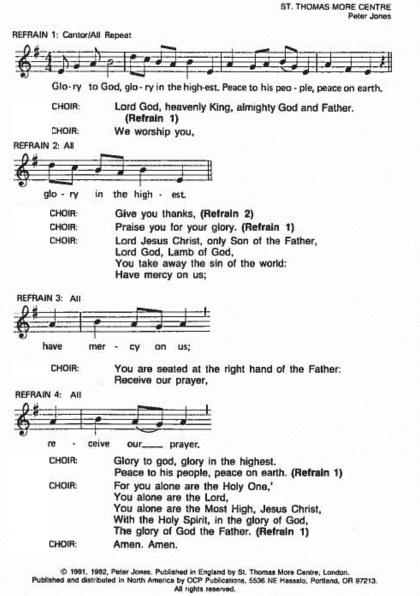
We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Congregation is Seated

#### **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** Glory to God . . . . Congregation & Choir sing as indicated



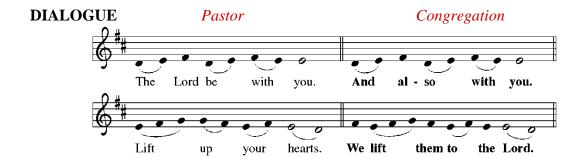
**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful . . . . . . All Stand & Sing

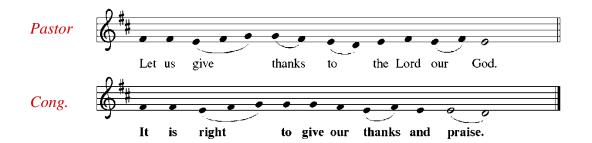


### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

C Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

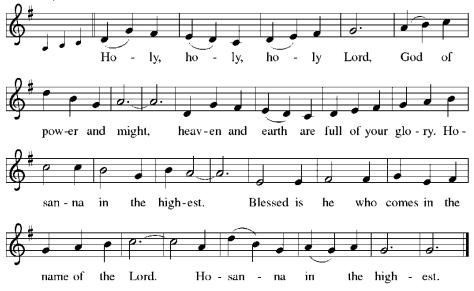




## **PREFACE**

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

#### 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.

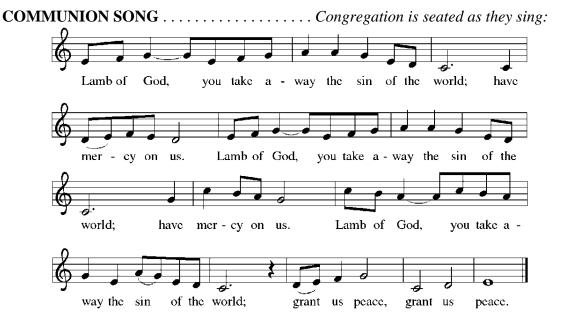
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.
- C Thanks be to God.



#### 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:



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Prepare the Royal Highway	Handbell Choir
Hail to the Lord's Anointed	. Chamber Choir

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.



**SENDING SONG:** *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un - furled, be - neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing 3 And you, low, 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by prophets seen of old. from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told, "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king." and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing, A - bove its sad look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling, The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing. and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing. oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road and hear the an - gels sing!

> Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis. 1819–1900

the world give back the song which now the an -

sing.

#### **SENDING**

- A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. 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.



**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 online form at www.holyc.org.

## Offering and Attendance Report for Sunday, December 17, 2017:

Attendance December 17: 153

Budget Report	This Week	Year-To-Date
Current Offering	\$ 3,384.10	\$264,975.03
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	<u>272,941.14</u>
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 2,272.32)	<u>(\$ 7,966.11)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		\$283,353.22
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		(\$ 18,378.19)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Jr.

GREETER: Kathy Graves

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** 

Volunteers

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

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)
Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Tracey Neult, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Amanda Kelly Katie Kessen

Rebecca Yount

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**SOLOIST:** Don Robinson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Beka Forst

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers** 

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: December 24-December 31

Today, December 24 Kurt Rogers

December 26 Amy Alvarez

Beverly Robinson

December 28 Molly Koehler

December 29 Trudy Whitener

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

December 30 Elizabeth Tench

Luke Via

Tuesday, December 26, 2018

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Adult Handbells

9:30 am Adult S.S.

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

10:40 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

All music activities & Sunday School will resume on January 7th.

2018 Offering Envelopes are available in the fellowship hall



THE FIGURES OF A SHEPHERD & SHEEP ARE ADDED TO OUR CRECHE. This morning we are reminded that on a hillside overlooking Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching over their sheep when a bright light appeared in the sky. The shepherds were very afraid. The light was angels sent by God. An angel told them not to be afraid, because he had some good news. He said the Son of God had been born and they would find him in Bethlehem. The shepherds went to find the baby.

**THE BLUE CANDLE** in the crèche reminds us that we are to keep our hearts and minds in confession and prayer this entire Advent Season.



## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone
Ned Featherstone
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Chuck Kimball &
Family
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

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

## **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Danny Atkins Jeanne Bernhardt Barbara Bingham Amy Beale Blythe Doug Brewer Karen de la Vega Carol Fox Larry "Poss" Garrett Brandi Hager John McDermid Clarence McLain Jennifer Lineberger Anne Murdy Brody Thornburg Dennis Yates



**OUR SERVICEMEN** 

Beau Carroll

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



## The 2018 Flower Chart is now available in the narthex.

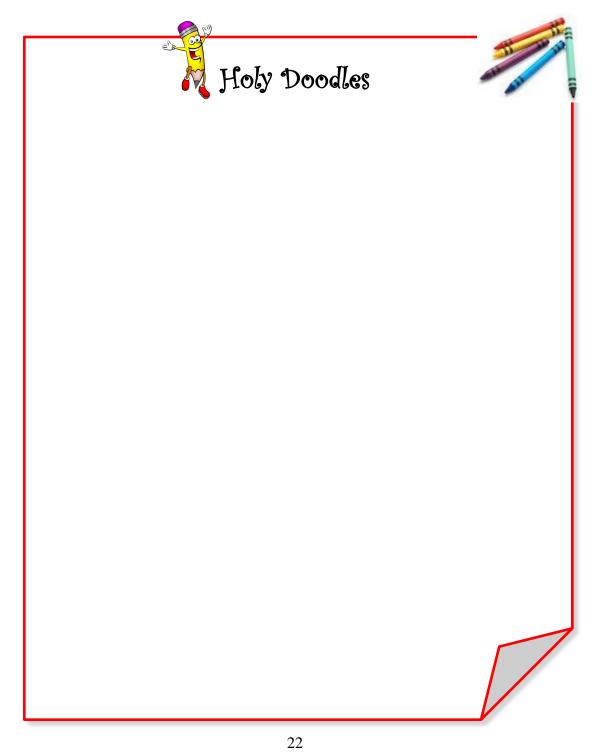
Please *print your name* at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 vase or both). **If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.**Cost of both vases = \$45, One vase = \$22.50.

NOTE: ALL year-end reports from church council and committee chairs are due to Dianne in the church office by January 2, 2018. These reports will be included in the annual report distributed to the congregation at a meeting the middle of January.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2018**

If you are willing to serve as a *Greeter*, *Lector*, *Usher*, *Eucharist Presenter* OR help in the **nursery** for the **2018** year, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet for each position you are volunteering for. Each volunteer position is listed on a separate clipboard. The clipboards are in the narthex. If willing to volunteer for the whole month, then sign your name at each date for that month. The chief lector will serve on festival Sundays. To help with the nursery, contact Melissa Bocchino.





## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2017

#### **GLORY TO GOD:**

Greg Byrum to the glory of God for Cullen McKay Pastor Micah & Jenn Kearney (2 poinsettias)

#### IN HONOR OF:

Greg Byrum in honor of Libby Byrum, mother
Greg Cline in honor of Shirley Causby and Faye & Warren Heller
Carmen, Arden & Merritt De Nicholas in honor of Dianne Lail (Grandma)
Charles & Beverley Mauney in honor of our children, grandchildren and Al McCoy
Mark & Anne Reese in honor of Jim & Barbara Reese and Jim Robertson
Luke & Alec Via and Noah Rawlins in honor of Fran Holland

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Bean in memory of Faye Hamilton Bean
Greg Byrum in memory of Olin Byrum, father
Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Raul E. de la Vega
Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. William L. Kannapel
Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Herbert & Pauline Christenbury
Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Robert & Mary Kelly
Sue Lahr in memory Stan Lahr
Dianne Lail in memory of A. O. Lail, father
Chuck, Ginger & Jake MacDonald in memory of Heather Mauney Yount
and Pamela Mauney

Charles & Beverley Mauney in memory of Heather Mauney Yount and Betsy & Ray Mauney and Mary McCoy
Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice & Mark Lyerly
Nancy Powell in memory of James & Margaret Sipe, parents
Mark & Anne Reese in memory of Shirley Robertson
Gary & Karen Rogers in memory or Harry & Helen Laver
Harold & Jo Singleton in memory of their parents
Lynne Sudarich in memory of her parents Leonard & Marie Sudarich
Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke & Alec Via in memory of Heather Mauney Yount

This is the list that the church office received. We apologize if there were any names omitted.

The National Youth Gathering is exactly what it sounds like, 30,000 + youth will gather in Houston. We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.



## There are 185 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!

For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.

# BCO December Items of the Month



## **Grits & Oatmeal**





## PB&J CAMPAIGN

The North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program is conducting its annual Peanut Butter & Jelly Campaign. Please place your donations of peanut butter and/or jelly in the labeled box located in the fellowship hall. The collection of peanut butter and

jelly runs through January 12.

## **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