

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 18, 2018

First Sunday in Lent

Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown* Burkhardt

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Merciful God,

C you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

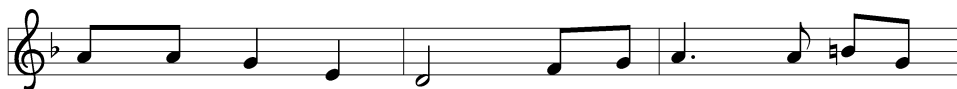
P Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Tree of Life* All Stand & Sing



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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GREETING

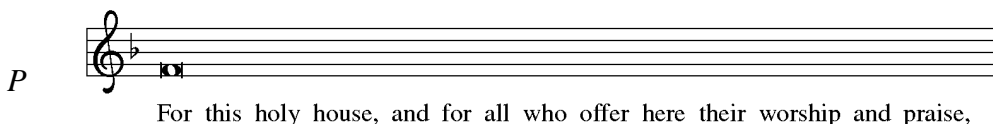
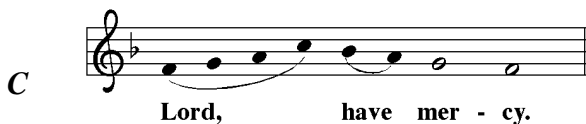
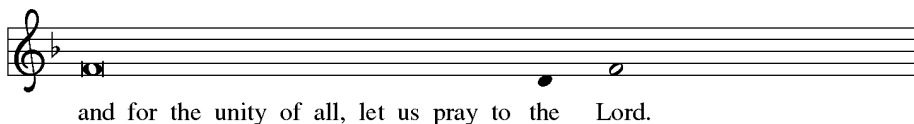
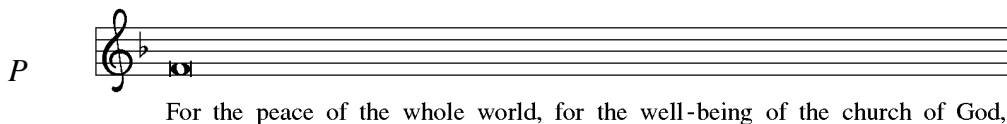
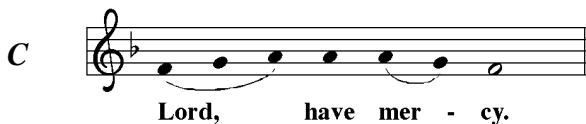
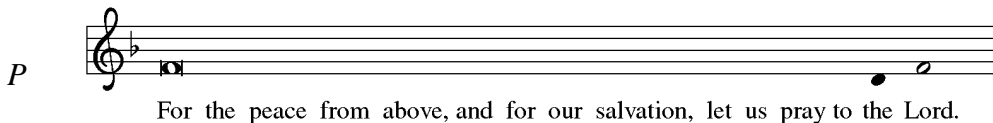
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

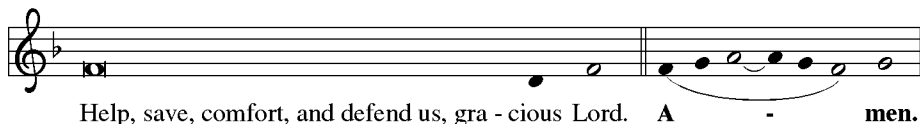
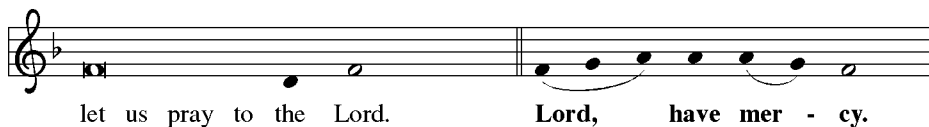
Pastor

Congregation



Pastor

Congregation



GLORY TO GOD All Sing



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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

Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from the ninth chapter of Genesis.

Today’s reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters

shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Peter.

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:9–15

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."



P The gospel of the Lord.

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON The Rev. Kevin Strickland

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast All Stand & Sing*

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. For all who preach, teach, and inspire your people to lives of service. Renew your church in ministry, mission, and compassion. Unite us in faith, and uphold us in the promises of baptism. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. For the well-being of both our own surroundings and of distant places. For favorable weather and sustaining rains. For creatures awakening from hibernation or beginning seasonal migrations. Provide safe habitats and abundant food for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. For all who govern or hold positions of authority. For those who work to make their communities safe from violence. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For those moving to new communities. For individuals who are incarcerated or recently released from prison. For those who are abused or neglected, for the lonely, and for those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For musicians, artists, and poets who help us envision your love through word, image, and song. For those who have faced exclusion or felt forgotten. For all who reach out in love and welcome. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. As they receive the fulfillment of your promises made to them in baptism, sustain us in the hope of resurrection life with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Day By Day* All Sing



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my



com - fort to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you
 serve and wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to
 bur - dens grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will



send me draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 guide me o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
 hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.

Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure, brings to
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row, I will
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me, you will

naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior, lead me to the home I
 trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and
 hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to

tre - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, b. 1936
 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

Tr. © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards* All Stand & Sing

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that

we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of

all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

Presider

Congregation



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

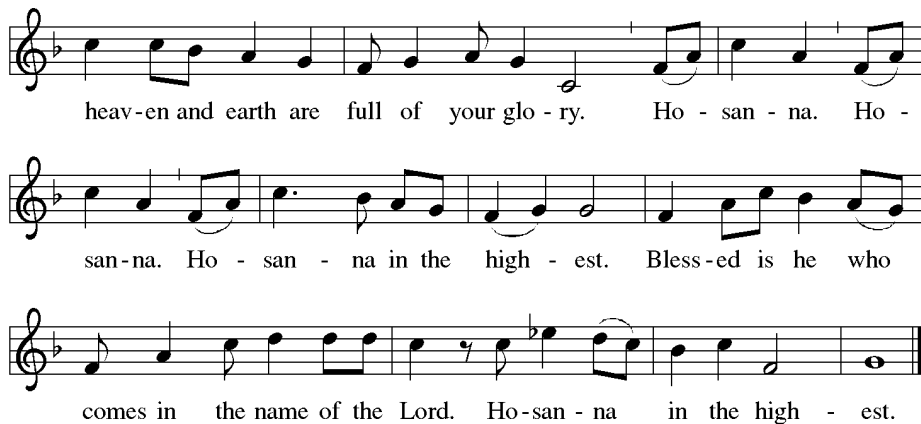
PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



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 Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

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



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Around You, O Lord Jesus All Sing*

1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath

to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
 your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
 we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—

You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my
 It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
 de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple

bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"
 bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
 dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
 Music: O JESU, ÅN DE DINÅ, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* All Stand & Sing

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final long note on the word 'me;'. The lyrics are repeated for three parts, with the third part adding 'walk with' at the end.

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

SENDING

A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **First 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. 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 form on line at www.holyc.org.**

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, February 11, 2018:

Attendance: 120

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>February 11, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 7,383.00	\$ 31,544.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$ 31,011.64
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 1,831.83</u>	<u>\$ 532.39</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>32,778.35</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		(\$ 1,234.32)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Volunteer

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Rochelle & Danny Potter

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Katie Kessen Rebecca Yount

CHILDREN’S CHURCH:

Veronica Bryant

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

Stacy Kirby

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team 3)

Bev Mauney, Fran Holland, Sherry Alexander

USHERS: Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Rochelle & Danny Potter

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Danny, Perri & Carson Potter in honor of Rochelle's birthday.

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 Committee

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: February 18-24
February 20 David Buchanan

★**HAPPY**★
BIRTHDAY!

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:
Today, Sunday, February 18

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
2:00 pm Confirmation at Philadelphia Lutheran
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
HCY meets at the church
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 pm Christian Ed meets
Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 21

5:00 pm Handbell class (kids)
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
6:45 pm ***Holden Evening Prayer***
7:15 pm Chamber Choir

Thursday, February 22

7:00 pm Evangelism meets

BCO February Items of the Month

Mashed potatoes
Rice
Grits
Oatmeal



We welcome The Rev. Kevin Strickland as our guest pastor this morning.



Attendance February 11, 2018

	Adults	Kids
Pre-K		5
Lower Elementary		4
Upper Elementary		3
Middle School		1
High School		1
Seekers	6	
Senior Adults	6	
God's Group	5	
Totals:	17	14



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 Beka.**

The 29th Annual Holy Comforter

Isle of Palms Retreat

will be Memorial Day weekend,

Thursday, May 24 through Monday, May 28th, 2018.

Signup at the church.

Contact Veronica Bryant or Mandi Kline for details.

Cost: \$99 per room per night with a minimum of 2 nights.

Make checks payable to Holy Comforter
(due by Easter Sunday)



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Carmen De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Lee Gillam
Brandi Hager
John McDermid

Clarence McLain
Jennifer Lineberger
Anne Murdy
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN



Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer Colton Parker

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



Holy Doodles



Music Week at Lutheridge, July 8-14, is open for registration. Grade 1 - Adult scholarships are available to Holy C members. See Greg Cline.

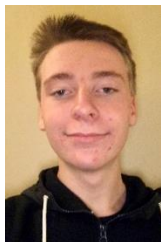
Children's Handbell Class will be held during the Lenten Wednesday's Together, **February 21-March 21**. This class is open to Grades 3-5. Contact Greg Cline to sign up.



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 129 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!
For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.

In the coming months you will be introduced to one of our seven travelers to Houston.
Below, meet Noah Rawlins:



My name is Noah Rawlins I am 16 and I'm a tenth grader at South Point High School. I enjoy playing basketball and video games. I also like to hang out with friends whenever I can. I play basketball on the church team. I was recently confirmed in October. My main goal in going to Houston is to get closer with God and better myself as a person. I want to meet new people who are Lutheran and share the same interests as me. I am excited to meet so many people who share the same beliefs.

NOTE: Our next basketball game is **Tuesday, February 27** at 7:00 pm with First Presbyterian. Game at Belmont Foursquare Gym.



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: MKearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager