Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 9, 2020

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

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, the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

C Amen.

P As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God who searches us and knows us,
- C you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.
- P Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; + your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

C Amen.

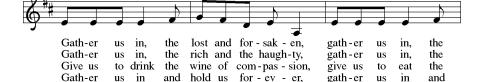


- 1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
- build-ings con fin ing, 4 Not in the dark of not in some heav - en,

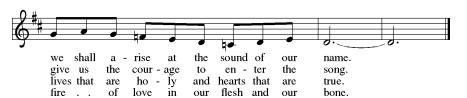


van - ished 'a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings we have been sung through - out all yearn for your face; of his - t'ry, bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters, light years a - way here in this place the new light is shin - ing,









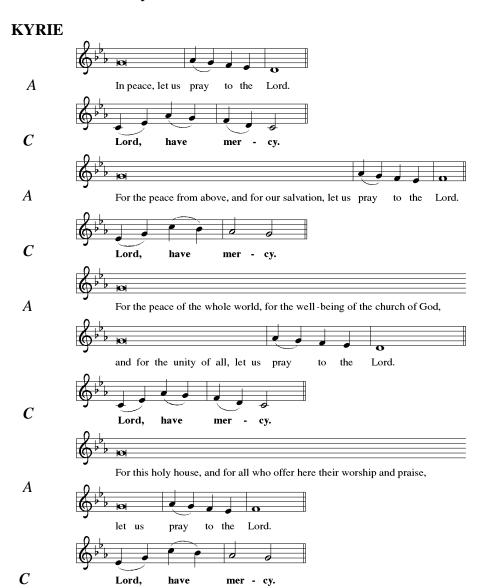
Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

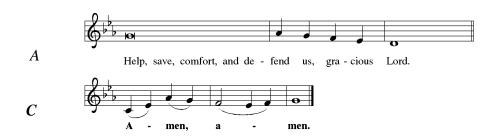
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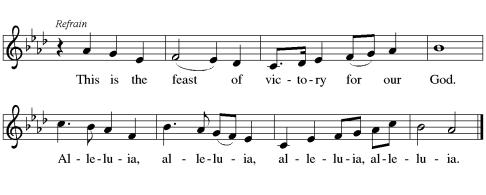
GREETING

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.



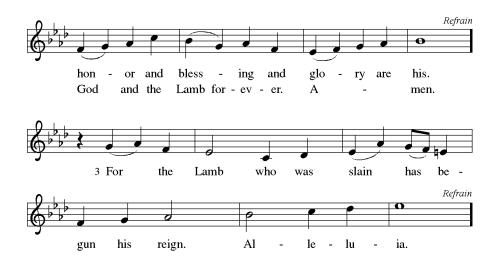












PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do and give us the grace and power to do them, 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 Isaiah 58:1-9a

A reading from the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah.

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute

for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God: they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. 3"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush. and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

6Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
7Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
8Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ^{9a}Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A reading from the second chapter of First Corinthians.

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹⁶¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

¹[Jesus said:] ¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

The assembly is seated.

 HYMN OF THE DAY: This Little Light of Mine..... All Stand & Sing



Text: African American spiritual Music: THIS 10Y, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935 Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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; be descended to the deed

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 an

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, it is your desire that all people might come to know you intimately. Lead our communities into deeper relationship with you. May your church radiate your righteousness to all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, you quench the dry ground, bringing water that sustains life. Satisfy the needs of all the earth, so that all living things bear witness to your verdant grace and continue to shout your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of glory, during your time here on earth you were crucified by powerful rulers who did not understand you. Grant leaders in our day wisdom and discernment, that they may recognize you in the lives of the people they serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of justice, you free us from the oppression that binds us and exhort us to serve one another. Liberate us from all fear, bigotry, and greed, and set our hearts and minds on love, equality, and justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you reveal your saving love to us through the power of your Spirit. Guide our actions, that we might be a means of your love for those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for...

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all eternity, we give you thanks for the lives of the saints who have pointed us towards faithfulness in you. May we trust in your endless mercy and grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

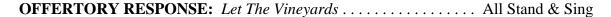
PEACE

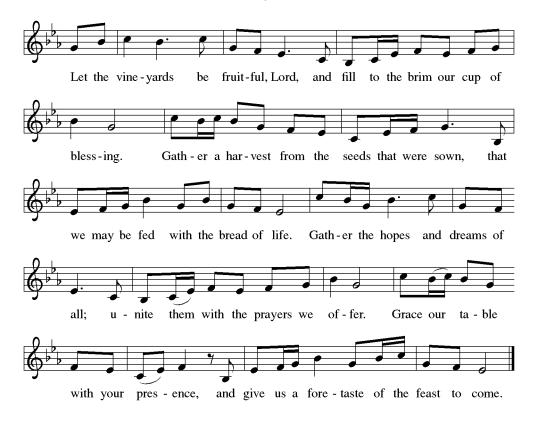
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Let the Life I've Lived, Speak For Me. Chamber Choir





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music @ 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

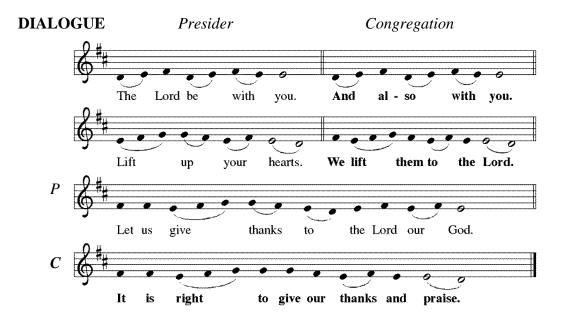
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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of wonder, you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen

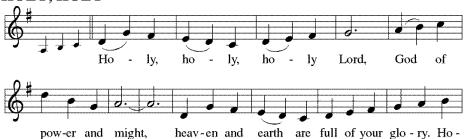
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

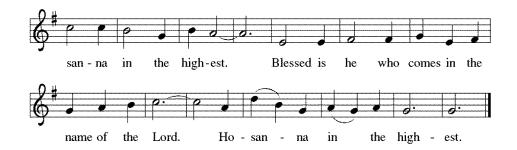


PREFACE

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 Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

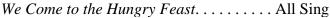
C Thanks be to God.



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: Ashoka Farewell and Candler. . Susanne Fairbairn





Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943 Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Rise, Shine, You People* All Stand & Sing



Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
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DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Let your light shine.
- C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all our visitors on this **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany.** 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 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.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given by Will and Katie Howard to the Glory of God.

<u>Those who have placed flowers on the altar</u> may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. *Julia Gunter, Worship & Music*

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, February 2, 2020:

Attendance: 119

Budget Report	This Week	Year-to-Date	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 5,060.00	\$ 22,150.00	(\$4,797.97)
Expenses	\$ 5,834.10	<u>\$ 23,814.40</u>	3,133.56
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 774.10)	(\$ 1,664.40)	(\$1,664.40)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Julia Gunter GREETER: Debbie Mendez

ACOLYTE: Justin Koehler TELLERS: Rochelle and Danny Potter

CRUCIFER: Volunteer CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Lauren Shoemaker

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3) NURSERY:(10:30-11:45a) Volunteer

Tracy Nault (Captain),

Deb Williams (Co Captain) COMMUNION ORGANIST:

Jill Leitner Suzanne Fairbairn

USHERS: Madison Kelly and Volunteer **EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B) Donna Bean (lead), Sherry Alexander, Jill Cassel

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, February 9 8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church choir prep

10:30 am Worship w/ Holy Communion

5:00 pm Handbells,

HCY

6:00 pm Church choir practice

Monday, February 10

6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class

Tuesday, February 11

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 12

5:15 pm Youth Handbells 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study HCY Girls' Bible Study

Thursday, February 13

11:00 am Prime Timers Bible 7:00 pm Evangelism/Outreach

****On Saturday, February 22, at 7 pm, **The National Lutheran Choir** will be singing at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte as part of their Southeast US Tour. Our choir, along with many others, will be joining them for a few pieces. **The concert is free**, and attendees are invited to bring a donation of new or gently used clothing for the Crisis Assistance Ministry. If you would like to attend and **need a ride**, let the church office know this week. **If needed**, cars will carpool from the church leaving at 5:45 pm.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: February 9-15

February 9 Shelia Kelly February 14 Noah Rawlins Will Howard



February 15 Leslie Crist Reesa Wilson



Fragrance Sensitivity, What to Do?

You may not love the scent of your coworker's hand cream, or the perfume wafting across the aisle on the train (or in church) but, for some people, fragrances like those can trigger a range of very real symptoms from migraines to difficulties with breathing. Studies have shown that 30.5% of the general population reported scented products on others to be irritating, 19% reported adverse health effects from air fresheners, and10.9% reported irritation by scented laundry products vented outside. And the list goes on of the irritants that can trigger fragrance sensitivity, products such as

personal care products and cleaning supplies, among a few. Based on the findings, it's clear that the health effects of fragrance sensitivities can be immediate, severe, and potentially disabling.

So what to do? If you are a fragrance sensitivity sufferer, you can do the following: Get rid of air fresheners, open windows when the weather allows it, use natural cleaners such as vinegar, block offensive odors with a friendly scent such as the peel of an orange, try nasal saline spray, and go generally chemical-free at home.

For the rest of us, who may not be fragrance sensitivity sufferers: Please use courtesy when using fragrances – a little dab will do ya, as they say! And, when visiting someone in the hospital, be sure to go fragrance-free...those smells can be especially irritating to someone who is ill or recovering from a surgery.

Come one, come all! Come SIGN UP NOW for **the ALZHEIMER'S LUNCHEON WORKSHOP** FEBRUARY 22, FROM 10:30-2:30. Learn what you need to know about this debilitating condition. You or a loved one may face it one day in the future! Sign up NOW in the education building across from the coffee! This is your LAST CHANCE to sign up. OR...if you forget, email the parish nurse at parishnurse0407@gmail.com to let her know you want to attend.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Becke Featherstone
Ellen Fleming
Sarah Tench Helms

Kay Holden
Zac Hullander
Ben Moose
Sherry Perry
Caitlin Reese

Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Beverly Reynolds Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Charlene Barbee
Jim Barbee
Janice Barker
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Libby Byrum
Craig Cluttz
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Mark Glaeser

Meredith Hovis
Mary Huggins
Family of
Mark Lineberger
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Ana Matthews
Al McCoy
Clarence McLain

Family of Dawn Mitchell
Ann Mundy
Linda Nichols
Robert Nichols
Sarah Nichols
Tommy Smith
Emily Stinson
Brody Thornburg
Jack and Doris Wade
Joanne Weeks
Jeff Wiles

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



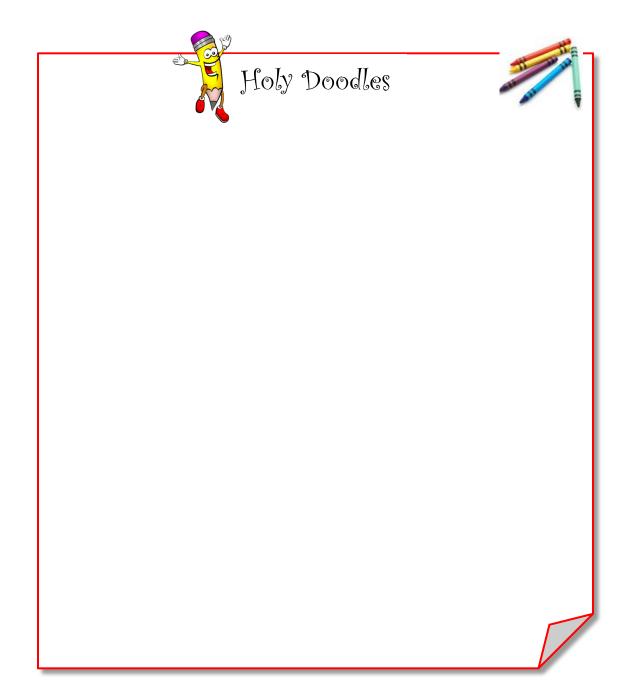
Please remember these people in your prayers.

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.

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to the office by 12

Noon on Wednesdays.



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 Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse