

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 8, 2020

## Second Sunday in Lent

Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *God Be With You.* (on page 20). . . . . All are invited to sing

### 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 is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**C Amen.**

P If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

P Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *Lift High The Cross* ..... All Stand & Sing

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956  
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947  
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## GREETING

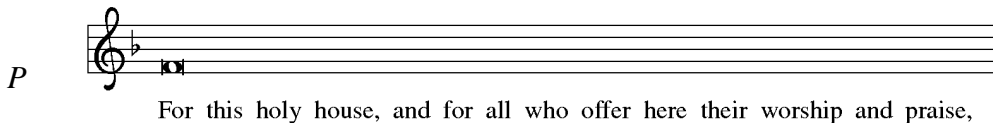
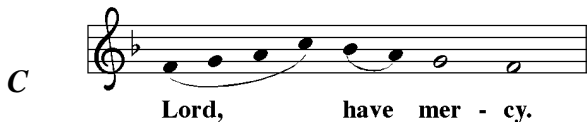
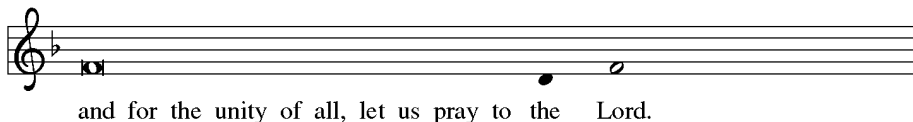
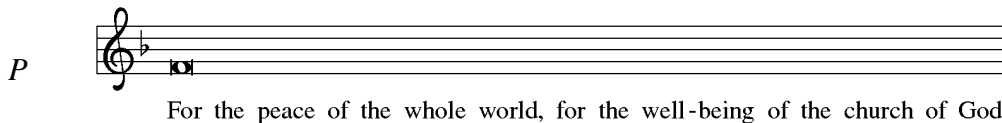
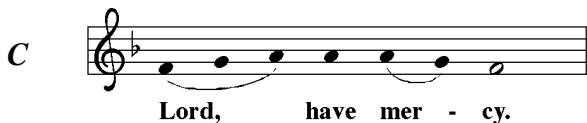
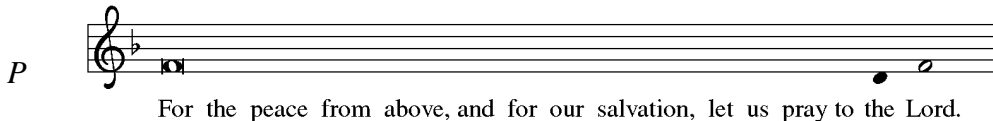
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

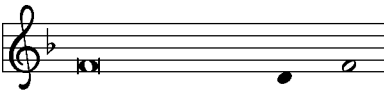

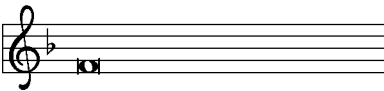

**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE

*Pastor*

*Congregation*



<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
 <p>let us pray to the Lord.</p>	 <p>Lord, have mer - cy.</p>
 <p>Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.</p>	 <p>A - men.</p>

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Congregation is Seated and 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 12:1-4a**

A reading from the twelfth chapter of Genesis.

*God’s call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who

bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

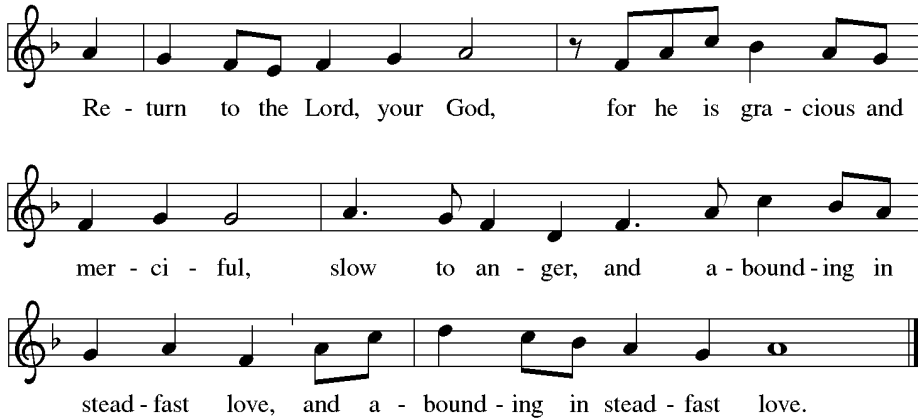
<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL VERSE



## GOSPEL

**John 3:1-17**

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

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

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON .....Deacon Intern Beka

HYMN OF THE DAY: God Loved the World.....All Stand & Sing



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

## **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**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of rebirth, empower your church throughout the world to be a voice of hope for those who fear judgment or condemnation. Assure us of your faithfulness and give us confidence to proclaim your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of rebirth, your Spirit hovered over the waters and you called creation into being. Nurture and bless all signs of rebirth around us: budding trees and new shoots, thawing lakes and warm breezes, and animals awaking from hibernation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



God of rebirth, lead the nations in your way of righteousness. Protect those who advocate for the needs of children, migrants, and victims of violence. Give courage to lawmakers, lawyers, judges, and law enforcement officers, guiding them to do justice and to love mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of rebirth, give us a new vision of your healing power among us. Restore hope to those who remain in the depths of depression or despair. Bring mercy and relief to those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of rebirth, we thank you for the children of this community and for the people and ministries that care for them. Bless new and expectant parents. Console those who have lost children and those whose desire for children remains unfulfilled. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of rebirth, by wind and spirit you call us into life renewed. We give you thanks for all your saints who have inherited your promises. Bring us, with them, into your everlasting kingdom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through 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:** *Veni Sancte Spiritus*.....Church Choir

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *As the Grains of Wheat*.....All Stand & Sing

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**C** Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

## DIALOGUE

*Presider*

*Congregation*

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

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

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*C* 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,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## 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 God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.  
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:** *Let Us Break Bread Together. . . . . All Sing*



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

**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** We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## BLESSING

P Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✠ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

C Amen.

## SENDING SONG: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* ..... All Stand & Sing

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall of  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bid.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872  
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

## SENDING

A Go in peace, share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all our visitors on this **Second Sunday of Lent**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given by Bill and Myra Hollar to the glory of God.

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

**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 1, 2020:**

Attendance: 89

<b><u>Budget Report</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>(Unfavorable)</u></b>
Offering	\$ 4,959.00	\$ 41,196.50	(\$10,133.11)
Expenses	\$ 5,834.10	\$ 45,874.62	<b>5,520.99</b>
Offering less Expenses	\$ (875.10)	(\$ (4,678.12)	<b>(\$4,678.12)</b>

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:****LECTOR:** Jim Buell**ACOLYTE:** Reid Passer**CRUCIFER:** Volunteer

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)  
Katie Howard (Co Captain),  
Donna Bean (Co Captain)  
Jill Cassel  
Julia Gunter

**GREETER:** Jill Cassel**TELLERS:** Shelia and Tim Kelly**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Jenn Kearney**NURSERY:** (10:30-11:45a) Lauren Shoemaker**EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Volunteers**USHERS:** Volunteers

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team C) Beverly Robinson (Lead), Rebecca Yount, Teresa Keller

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**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, March 8**

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  
5:30 pm Family Bingo Night  
6:00 pm Church choir practice

**Monday, March 9**

6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class

**Tuesday, March 10**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Wednesday, March 11**

5:15 pm Youth Handbells  
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner  
6:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer  
7:15 pm Chamber Choir practice

**Thursday, March 12**

11:00 am Prime Timers Bible Study  
6:30 pm Yoga for Beginners  
7:00 pm Evangelism/Outreach Meet

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: March 8-14**

March 10-Dee Smith

March 11-Tom Kasmer

March 12-Veronica Bryant

Arden De Nicholas



March 13-Raini Kimball

March 14-Tyler Ange

Tracey Nault

Nancy Powell





**Home Remedies?** We've ALL got stories of the remedies our grandparents used to use – "wrap a cold, damp flannel around your neck and sleep with it on to cure a sore throat," "hang a clove of garlic around your neck on a string to cure a cold (my aunt made me do this!)," "puff smoke into an achy ear to soothe and relieve the pain." Yikes! But there actually ARE some home remedies that work well. For instance, a study at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington, showed that using duct tape to get rid of warts had an 85% success rate compared to the 60% success rate of freezing the wart. How?

The experts aren't sure why it works but the theory is that it irritates the area and stimulates the immune system. How to do this? Clean the wart, and then cover with duct tape. After six days remove the tape and soak the wart in warm water. Use pumice or an emery board to rub away soft areas. Leave tape off overnight then apply more the next morning. Repeat the steps until the wart is gone – usually in two months!

Note: For those of you who may be underinsured or uninsured, or for folks who know folks in this situation: NC MedAssist is an organization that distributes FREE over-the-counter medicines (cold, cough and flu meds, Band-Aids, pain and allergy relief, vitamins and children's meds, and much more). There is no qualifying except that you need to be over 18 years of age. NC MedAssist is coming to Gastonia in April! For more information, there are flyers on the Health Ministry table across from the coffee.

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BEGINNING **THURSDAYS**, March 12 FROM 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall

JOIN US FOR  
**Beginners Yoga**

**This is a six-week beginners program held once a week**  
**COST: \$30/person for all six weeks!**

**NO MAT WORK – all exercise is done sitting or standing**

Join the Health Ministry in adding exercise to your  
life in a wholesome, healthy way!

**Questions? Call Teresa Keller, RN, PN @ 717-329-8507, email me at**  
**[parishnurse0407@gmail.com](mailto:parishnurse0407@gmail.com)**

**AND sign up NOW at the Health Ministry table in the education wing.**

## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Cynthia Buchanan  
Shirley Causby  
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  
Beverly 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.

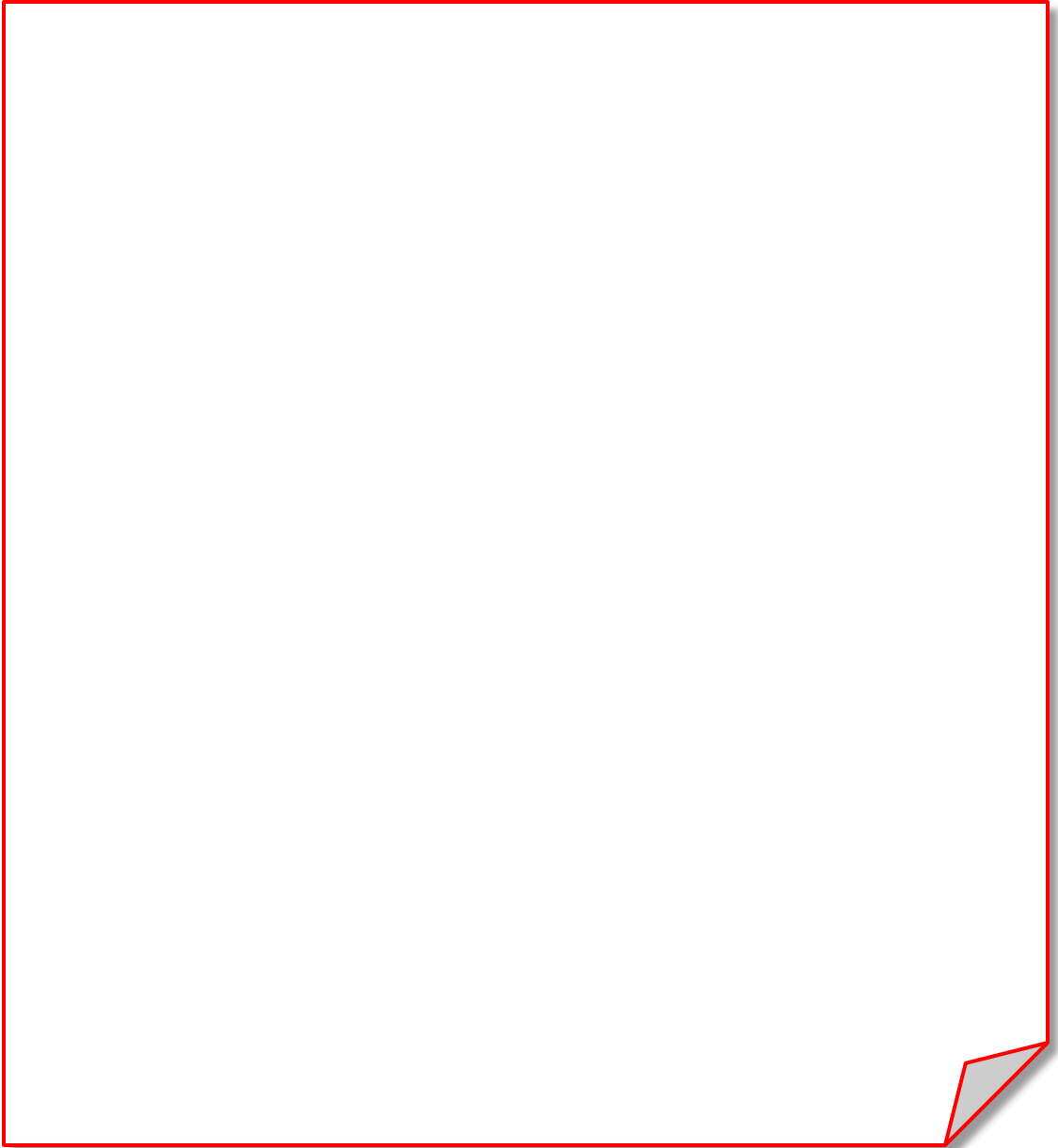
**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,  
please inform the church office.**

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

**NOTE:** To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays.**



# Holy Doodles



# God Be with You



1 God be with you. God be with you. In the morn - ing when you  
2 God be with you. God be with you. When you trav - el far a -  
3 God be with you. God be with you. And wher - ev - er you may  
4 God be with you. God be with you. As you lis - ten, teach, and  
5 God be with you. God be with you. When the moon and stars shine



wake, and with ev - 'ry breath you take, God be with you.  
way, in your dai - ly work and play, God be with you.  
go, as the spir - it winds will blow, God be with you.  
learn, and then safe - ly home re - turn, God be with you.  
light as you slum - ber through the night, God be with you.

Text: Rusty Edwards

Music: S'BOGOM, Rusty Edwards

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## Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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**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](mailto:MKearney@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse