

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 13, 2018 •

## The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Micah Kearney  
Pastor



Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Crown Him Lord of All* ..... Handbell Choir

### 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 Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

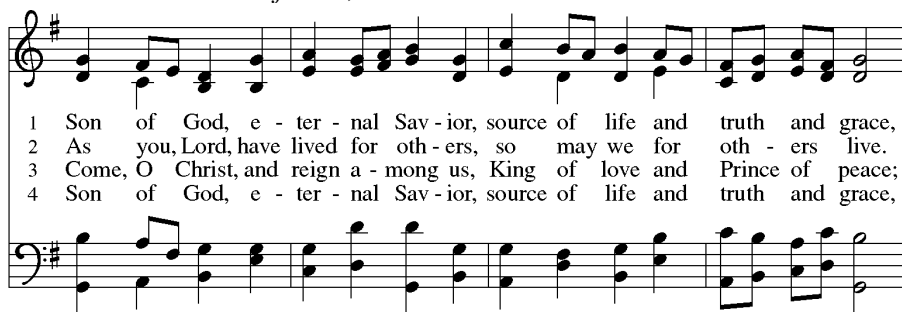
P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

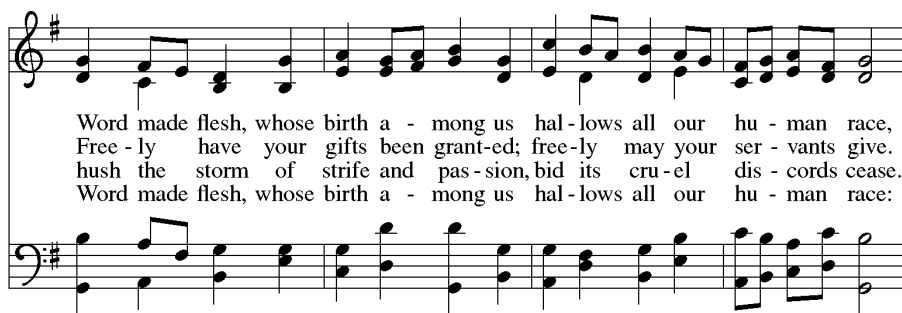
P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C **Amen.**

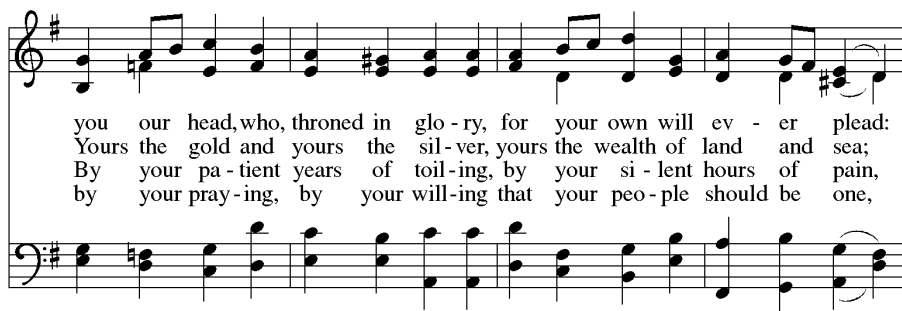
# GATHERING SONG: *Son of God, Eternal Savior* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



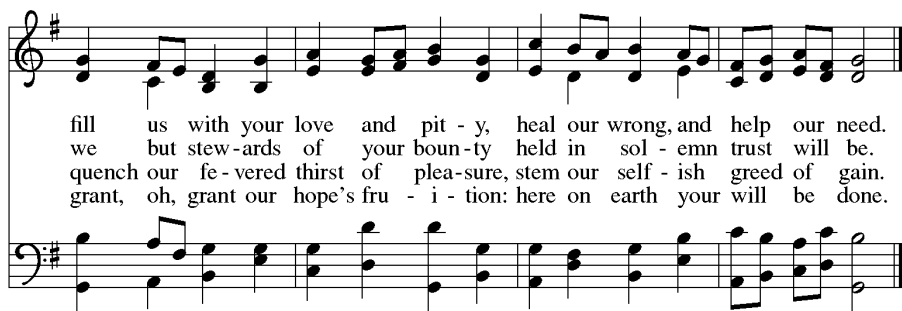
1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

## GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

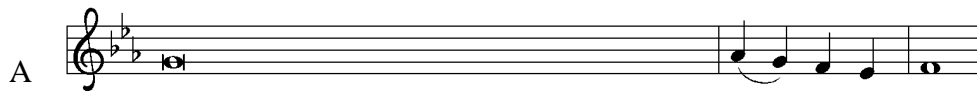
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



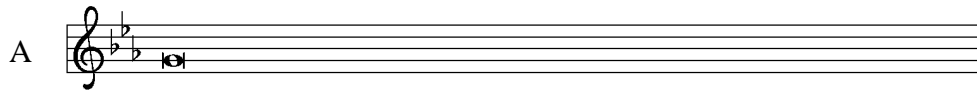
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



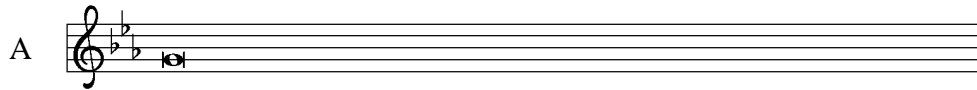
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

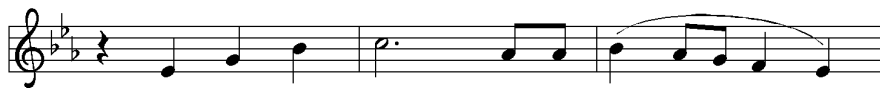


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## GLORY TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - mighty 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.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in 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**.

**ANTHEM:** *God So Loved the World* . . . . . Handbell Choir

## FIRST READING

**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

A reading from the first chapter of Acts.

*In the days between Jesus’ ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas’s treachery and death.*

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and

apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”<sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



**PSALM 1:** ..... All Sing

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with  
leaves that | do not wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so | with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

## SECOND READING

**1 John 5:9-13**

A reading from the fifth chapter of 1 John.

*God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.*

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL VERSE ..... All Stand & Sing



## GOSPEL

John 17:6-19

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

*In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death. This gospel reports the words of Jesus' prayer, a prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of



the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

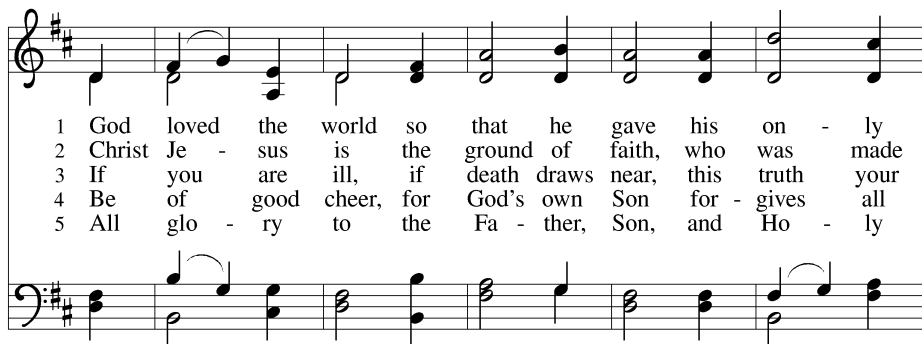
**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

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



# 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.**

## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

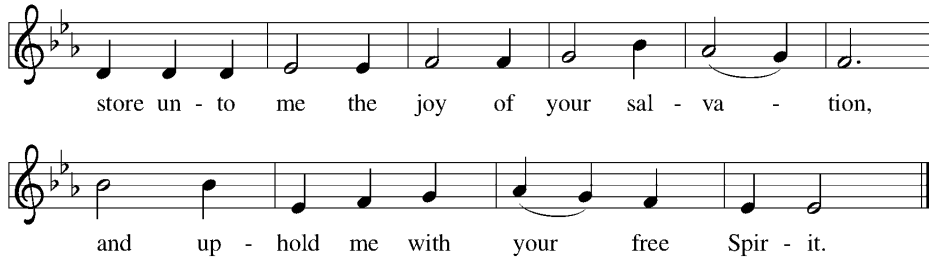
## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Peace I Leave With You* ..... Church Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* ..... All Stand & Sing



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
 spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
 pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

End divisions within your church, O God. Open us to receive your testimony. Make us one as you are one. Make our joy complete. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Nourish the soil of your earth, holy God. Bless the trees planted by the water, and bless the seeds planted by birds and by our hands. Bring forth fruit in due season. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for warring nations, political refugees, and peacekeepers. Wash away the fear and hatred that tear us apart. Let justice roll down like a mighty stream. Quench our thirst for peace in every land. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are homeless, naked, hungry, imprisoned, abandoned, or sick (*especially*). Send us to shelter, clothe, feed, and visit those in need. Make us your healing and compassionate presence in the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for mothers we love and mothers we struggle to love. For adoptive mothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers. For those who long to be mothers. For everyone who has mothered us in the faith. Give rest, healing, wisdom, and strength, mothering God. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You give us eternal life in your Son. When doubts and fears arise, give us peace in the resurrection promise. Sanctify us in your truth and unite us with all the saints. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
    hallowed be thy name,  
    thy kingdom come,  
    thy will be done,  
        on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those  
        who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power, and the glory,  
    forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**P** May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**C Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *The Head That Once Was Crowned . . . . . All Stand & Sing*  
The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;  
A royal diadem adorns the mighty victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords is his by sov'reign right,  
The King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's eternal light.

The joy of all who dwell above, the joy of all below  
To whom he manifests his love, and grants his name to know;

To them the cross, with all its shame with all its grace, is giv'n;  
Their name, an everlasting name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855

## SENDING

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. 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 **Seventh Sunday of Easter**. 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

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

**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, May 6, 2018:**

Attendance: 119

| <b><u>Budget Report</u></b>     | <b><u>May 6, 2018</u></b> | <b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offering                        | \$ 8,203.76               | \$ 99,904.79               |
| Expenses                        | \$ 5,551.17               | \$ 96,952.58               |
| Offering less Expenses          | <u>\$ 2,652.59</u>        | <u>\$ 2,952.21</u>         |
| Expected Expenses               |                           | <u>\$100,978.48</u>        |
| Offering less Expected Expenses |                           | (\$ 1,073.69)              |

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Jo Singleton

**GREETER:** Carmen Buell

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Amanda & Nathan Kelly

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Katie Kessen Rebecca Yount

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Jill Cassel

**NURSERY:** (10:30-11:45 am)

Ginger MacDonald

**USHERS:** Volunteers

***Happy Mother's Day!***



## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

### Today, Sunday, May 13

9:30 am Sunday School  
Handbell Choir  
10:10 am Church Choir  
10:30 am The Service

### Monday, May 14

6:30 pm Social Ministry meets

### Tuesday, May 15

7:00 pm Christian Ed meets  
Nar-Anon

### Wednesday, May 16

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

### Saturday, May 19

9:30 **HCY** leaves for Carowinds



## BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: May 13-19

Today, May 13 Rebekah Milton  
May 16 Sherry Perry

## BCO May Items of the Month



Soups



Baked Beans



Dried Beans



**Agape Day Camp**  
**will be held July 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**  
**For grades entering 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**



Registration forms are available from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 32 campers, so register soon.

The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.





## **VBS Registration Coming Soon...**

### **Dates of VBS are July 29-August 2**

Volunteers needed to teach, set up, cleanup, and collect supplies.  
**Contact Beka at [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org) to volunteer.**

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### **Baby Bottle Blessings** *Change for Change*

From now (Mother's Day) until June 17<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day) we will be collecting loose change in baby bottles for a very special project that will **CHANGE** countless lives.

This collection is for The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County which has five (5) locations across the county.



Pick up a bottle now and start filling it with change (or bills, or checks).  
For more information contact Crisis Pregnancy Center at 704-867-3706.



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### ***Middle School Sunday School Class*** ***Community Service Bags***

*A service project that can provide to the community through the teenagers of our congregation.*

A list of items needed may be found in the May newsletter and via email.

### **Donations Needed by today, May 13**

Give your donations to Ashley Ange or put in upstairs Middle School Sunday School room.



## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Carmen Buell  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Becke Featherstone  
Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander

Jo Irwin  
Ben Moose  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry  
Pat Roberson  
Marguerite Shive

Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Beverly Reynolds  
Jerri Wesson

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham  
Amy Beale Blythe  
Doug Brewer  
Karen de la Vega  
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett  
Brandi Hager  
Jennifer Lineberger  
Clarence McLain  
Anne Murdy

Tommy Smith  
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](http://www.holyc.org)

Help Holy Comforter Youth go to the  
*National Youth Gathering* in  
Houston, Texas!

# Holy Comforter



**We are looking for BBQ of All kinds!**

**Bring your best BBQ to be voted on by  
a “change” donation on May 20.**

(We'll be eating this BBQ and then casting a vote.)

**For those not bringing BBQ, we ask that you provide a side dish and/or a dessert.  
Drinks & some BBQ provided by the church.**



**Winner will be awarded a trophy and bragging rights.**

**If interested, please email Beka at [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org).**



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



Hi, my name is Catherine Carr and I am 14 years old. I am in 9th grade at South Point high school. My hobbies include soccer, playing piano, baking, and running. I love being a part of our church family and am so excited to attend the National Youth Gathering in June. I look forward to volunteering in Houston and being around other Lutheran youth while growing closer to Christ!

**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service**  
**Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager