

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 21, 2017 •

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Bring Forth the Kingdom* Haugen

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 Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

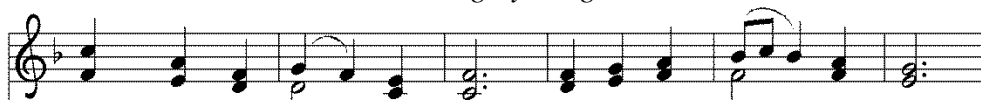
P God of life,

C by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new. Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ, Amen.

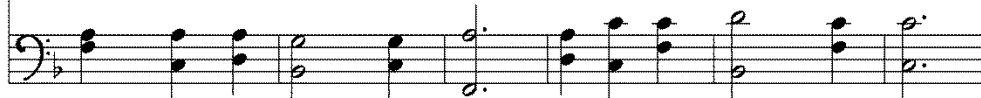
P People of God, Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name, and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

C Amen.


GATHERING SONG: *Come, Thou Almighty King* All Stand & Sing



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
 2 Come, thou in - car - na - te Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be




help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
 ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.



Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.
 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

GREETING

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

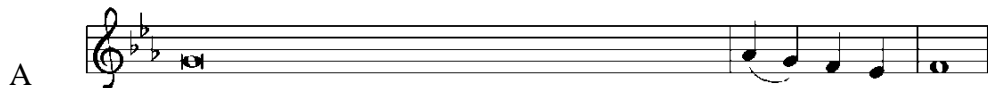
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



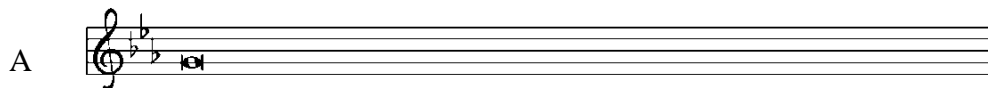
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



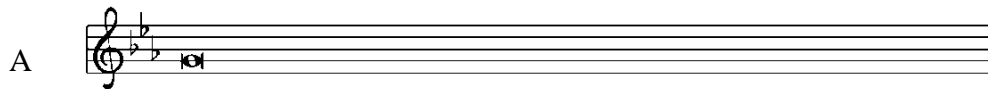
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

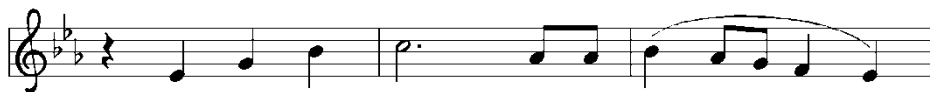


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



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 - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



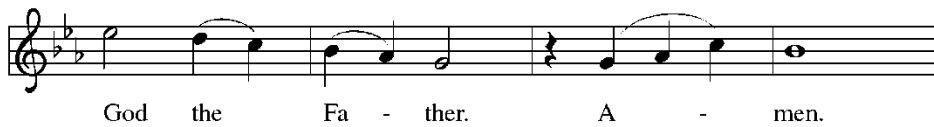
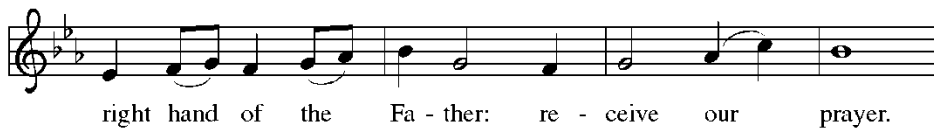
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of Acts.

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so

‘For we too are his offspring.’

A The word of the Lord.

⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;

**⁹Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

**11 You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

**¹³ I will enter your house | with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—**

¹⁴ those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

**Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Peter.

Christians have a zeal for doing what is right in God's eyes no matter what the circumstances because in baptism we are saved and made alive. Thus our Christian beliefs and behavior are to be a matter of public record just as our baptism is.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ 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 All Stand & Sing

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

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

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

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come Down, O Love Divine* All Stand & Sing

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890
 Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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: *Thy Word* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE All Stand & Sing

Make me a servant, humble, meek. Lift us up, those who are weak.
And may the prayer within our hearts, all assembled take their parts.
All our given treasure bring, Christ to You our heav'n-ly King.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Draw your whole church together as one. Bring an end to division. Send your Spirit into your people and rouse us to greater love and mission.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. For scientists, photographers, and explorers. For scholars, poets, musicians, artists, and all who lead us to greater knowledge and appreciation of beauty. For lakes and rivers, watersheds and wetlands, ponds and oceans. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. Give wisdom to those who govern. Strengthen all who work for peace. Protect those who have been displaced or have left their homes in search of safety and freedom. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who suffer abuse or neglect. For those who suffer post-traumatic stress. For those who struggle with addiction. For those who grieve and all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless those preparing for baptism. Strengthen our ministries of evangelism, outreach, and pastoral care. Deepen our faith and knowledge of you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died Inspire us by their witness to your love. Bring us into your eternal presence to live with you forever. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, 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.

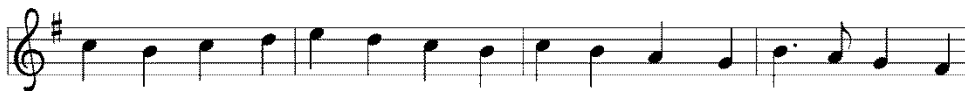
SENDING SONG: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* All Stand & Sing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

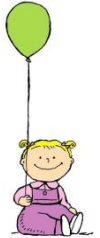
C **Thanks be to God.**

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Sixth 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 located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



Nurseries
Available

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.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Danny, Rochelle & Carson Potter in honor of Perri'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 14, 2017:

Attendance: 100

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>May 14, 2017</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 2,989.00	\$ 103,687.75
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 107,841.41
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 2,667.42)	(\$ 4,153.66)
Budgeted Expenses		\$ 109,342.02
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		(\$ 5,654.27)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Jim Buell**GREETER:** Pat Koehler**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** Volunteers**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Volunteer

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Katie Kessen, Amanda Kelly

Rebecca Yount

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)*Infants:* Volunteers*Toddlers:* Staff**USHERS:** Volunteers**TELLERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: May 21-27**

Today, May 21 Natalie Hullander

May 22 Billy Joye

Arch Lineberger

May 23 Chuck MacDonald

Jennifer Miller

May 24 Mandi Kline

Perri Potter

Denise Taylor

May 25 Michael Jenkins

William Kline

May 26 Matthew Hogge

Amelia Kline

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, May 21**

9:30 am *Breakfast for graduates*
and their parents
Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service

2:00 pm **Field Day** at Holy Comforter

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

6:00 pm Church Choir

Wednesday, May 24

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday, May 25

7:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

Friday, May 26-29*Isle of Palm Retreat***Tuesday, May 23**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

NOTE: If you missed picking up a baby bottle for the ***Baby Bottle Blessings*** project, there are still some available in the narthex. Your loose change collected between now and Father's Day will go to Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gastonia.





SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School 2017

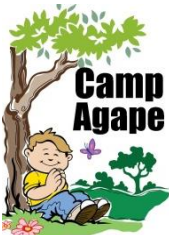
June 25th – June 28th from 6pm – 8pm



This year we will learn how God created each of us through song, bible discovery, games and the imagination station! We are in need of volunteers to help in many capacities through the evening activities. We will also provide a quick meal each evening for all participants & volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering to lead a group of kids, a breakout session or help prepare a meal, please email **Melissa Bocchino** at melissa.bocchino@pwc.com. Registration forms for children in rising grades K through 5th are available in the narthex (inside front doors of entrance to sanctuary). We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!

Through the month of May we are collecting new and gently used athletic balls and sports equipment to donate to *Boys and Girls Club*. As part of this collection, we will have a **Holy Comforter Field Day** at the church on **May 21 at 2 pm**. Come play with us, laugh with us, or cheer for us, and bring something to donate!



Holy Comforter is hosting **Camp Agape July 17-21**.

Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Agape Kure Beach Ministries.

During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from **Misty Koehler**.

The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 25 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.**



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Ned Featherstone

Kay Holden
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche

Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Father Frank Cancro
Teresa Beale Davis
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Scott Frisk
Bill Hinkle
Glenda Hinkle
Brian Jackson & Family
Carole Leitner
Jennifer Lineberger

Anne Murdy
Heather Plichta
Karen Wayt
Donnie Yavelak



OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek
Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer
Leo Kasmer

Tom Kasmer

Please remember these people in your prayers.

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

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org



Ornaments made from Christian symbols (or **Chrismons**, a contraction for 'Christ monograms') were first developed by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA.

You are invited to join with the women of Holy Comforter as we work to repair the old and create new *Chrismons* for our Christmas tree.

Meet May 28th, 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Say Cheese!



Be included in Holy Comforter's 2017 Photo Directory!

Lifetouch (formerly Olan Mills) supplies professional photographers on-site to provide members with the highest quality family photos as well as providing the church with a top-notch Photo Directory. We strongly encourage EVERY FAMILY to participate in this opportunity! Here are a few reasons why:

- **It's 100% FREE! Lifetouch only requires there be at least 15 families photographed to provide this free service.**
- **Each family receives a FREE 8x10, no purchase necessary!**
- **Each family receives a FREE Photo Directory, a professionally bound book of photos and contact information as well as a history lesson celebrating Holy Comforter's Centennial year!**
- **Easy online scheduling! Visit our website or Facebook for link.**
- **For every session scheduled, Holy C receives \$5! So not only is the session beneficial to your family, but it's a fundraising opportunity!**
- **We have coupons! \$10 off any photo package simply for providing your e-mail address!**

We have **FOUR** dates to ensure everyone will be able to participate.

Monday, June 12 2 pm - 9 pm

Tuesday, June 13 2 pm - 9 pm

Friday, June 23 2 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, June 24 10 am - 5 pm

Questions? Contact Katie Kessen at 815.762.5480 or ktkssn112@aol.com

BCO May Items of the Month...



Packaged crackers

Packaged cookies

Canned Pasta:

Ex. Spaghetti &

Meatballs or

Spaghetti Os



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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

holycomforter@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MicahKearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager