

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, October 22, 2017 •

## The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Praise to the Lord* ..... Wold

### 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, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Source of all life,

**C** we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.

**Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.**

**Amen.**

**P** God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *O God Beyond All Praising* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,  
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-  
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,

we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.  
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

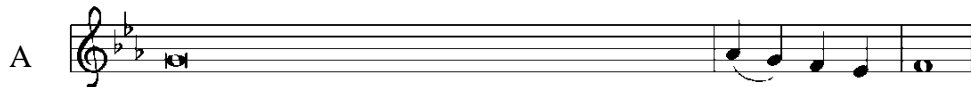
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



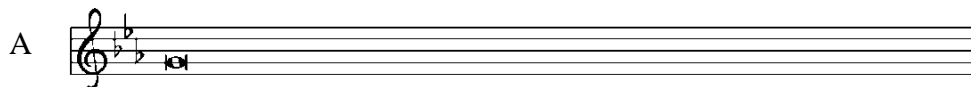
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



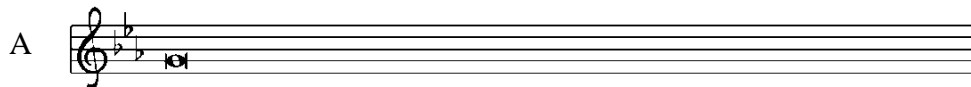
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

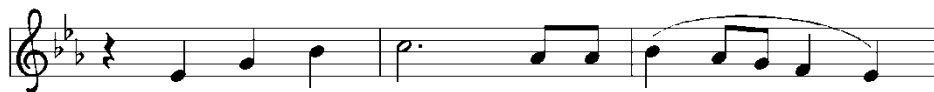


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



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



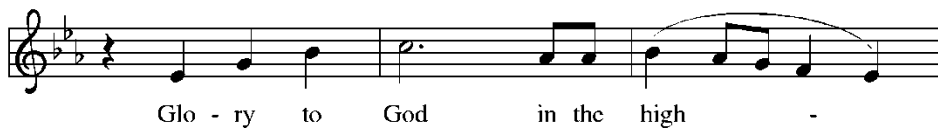
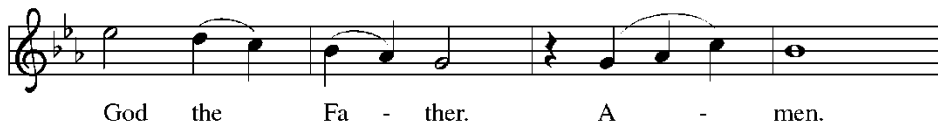
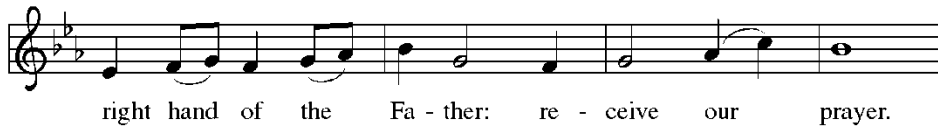
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



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.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, 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 45:1-7**

A reading from the forty-fifth chapter of Isaiah.

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel’s exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:

<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze

and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
 and riches hidden in secret places,  
 so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.  
<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
 and Israel my chosen,  
 I call you by your name,  
 I surname you, though you do not know me.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
 besides me there is no god.  
 I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
 and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
 I make weal and create woe;  
 I the LORD do all these things.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



**PSALM 96:1--10** ..... All Sing

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD | a new song;  
 sing to the LORD, | all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**  
**proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
 and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**  
**more to be feared | than all gods.**  
<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
 but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

**<sup>6</sup>Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

**<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.**

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

**<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.**

**<sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: “The | LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the  
peo- | ples with equity.”**

## **SECOND READING**

## **Thessalonians 1:1-10**

A reading from the first chapter of Thessalonians.

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul is giving pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic pagan environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

**<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,**

**To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.**

**<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,  
constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love  
and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters  
beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you  
not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as  
you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you  
became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word  
with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers  
in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not  
only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known,  
so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us  
what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to**

serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

Matthew 22:15-22

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

*After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he



said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* . . . All Stand & Sing

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at-ing light;  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;  
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NUTTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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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;  
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:** *Sing a New Song Unto the Lord* . . . . . Church Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Create In Me* . . . . . All 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 -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and

**what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Trusting in God, we pray for the church. Fill all worshipers with your Holy Spirit. Grant them generous hearts to share God's splendor revealed to them in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation: for the power of sun, wind, and water, for the riches buried in rock and soil, for the magnificence of life in forms too many to number. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations: for leaders of governments, for fair commerce between nations, for treasurers, boards of directors, and all who justly distribute monetary resources. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor and outcast, for those who cannot afford food, medicine, clothing, and shelter, for the communities and agencies who serve the needy and advocate on their behalf. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in God's healing power, we pray for this congregation: for the unemployed and overworked, for all who are burdened by debt, for the sick and those in particular need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints of every time and place. By your Spirit, grant us sure confidence in the everlasting glory you promise. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit

**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 God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

## SENDING SONG: *God of Grace* ..... All Stand & Sing

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

## SENDING

**A** Go in peace. Sound the good news.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**. 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, & Perri Potter in honor of Carsons's birthday; and by the Buells in honor of all the family Fall birthdays.

**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, October 15, 2017:**

Attendance: 103

<b><u>Budget Report</u></b>	<b><u>October 15, 2017</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>
Offering	\$ 5,297.00	\$ 214,658.43
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 225,427.44
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 359.42)</u>	<u>(\$ 10,769.01)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 232,719.19</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 18,060.76)</u>

## ASSISTING MINISTERS:

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye

**GREETER:** Katie Kessen

## ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Fran Holland

Trudy Whitener

## ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains

Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Krystyna Sarrazin

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

*Infants:* Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

**USHERS:** Volunteers

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## BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: October 22-28

Today, October 22 Carmen Buell

October 23 Eva Kline

Carson Potter

Noah Rogers



October 24 Renee Carpenter

October 27 Kay Holden

October 28 Andrew Bryant

Sarah Reese

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## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

### Today, Sunday, October 22

9:00 am Handbells

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

*Chrismon* workshop

6:00 pm Church Choir

### Wednesday, October 25

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

### Thursday, October 26

7:00 pm Evangelism Committee

### Saturday, October 28

4:00-6:00 pm **Trunk or Treat**

HolyC Parking Lot

Decorate your car & wear  
your costume for a fun time

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### Tuesday, October 24

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon



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## BCO October Items of the Month



### Canned Soups





## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Carmen Buell  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Ardean Ewing  
Becke Featherstone  
Ned Featherstone

Kay Holden  
Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Chase Lineberger  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Beverly Reynolds  
Kathie Schaumburg  
Jerri Wesson

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt  
Barbara Bingham  
Amy Beale Blythe  
Karen de la Vega  
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett  
Brandi Hager  
John McDermid  
Jennifer Lineberger  
Anne Murdy

Brody Thornburg  
Karen Wayt  
Dennis Yates



## OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

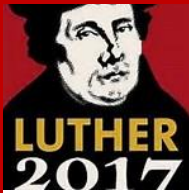
Leo Kasmer

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 in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).

**ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY LUNCHEON:** Lunch will be served for everyone on November 5 (All Saints' Sunday). Bring nothing but your appetite. Following the dedication of our columbarium we will fellowship together with a catered meal in the courtyard (weather permitting). The new owners of the 211 North Main Street will open their doors for all who wish to tour the former Causby home, which was our former parsonage for over 25 years.



On October 29 we will abound with celebration! During worship we will celebrate the **Confirmation** of some of our youth, as well as commemorate the **Reformation** and our **own centennial year with the planting of a tree** on the grounds.



We will have a time of food and fellowship together following worship.



We invite folks to **bring a side dish to share, as the entree will be provided**, and we will have **cake to celebrate our confirmands!**



## Holy Doodles



# PB&J CAMPAIGN

The North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program is conducting its annual ***Peanut Butter & Jelly Campaign***. Peanut butter is something all food banks need. The collection of jelly was added because we were all once children, and we fondly remember peanut butter & jelly sandwiches as a staple of a happy childhood.

**Please place your donations of peanut butter and/or jelly in the labeled box located in the fellowship hall.** Your donations will be taken to the Guardian ad Litem office in the Gaston County courthouse. Donations will then be distributed to the food banks in the county.

The collection of peanut butter and jelly runs through January 12.



Peanut  
Butter  
& Jelly  
Campaign



[volunteerforal.org](http://volunteerforal.org)



## 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: [MicahKearney@gmail.com](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager