

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 28, 2018 •

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *I Stand Amazed in the Presence* Gabriel

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 stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. **Amen.**

P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

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



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
 Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
 Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

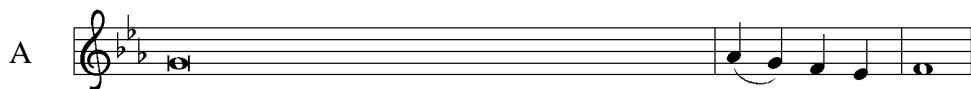
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



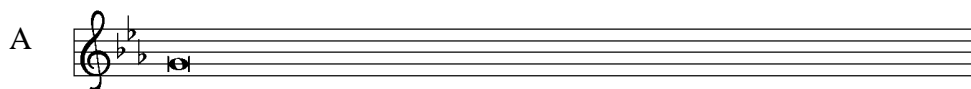
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



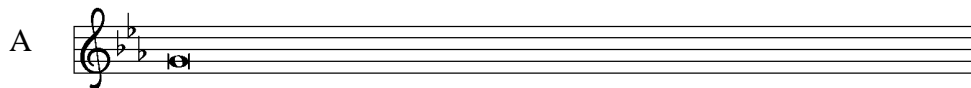
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo and meter are not explicitly stated. The melody is composed of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The text is as follows:

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
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.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, 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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the eighteenth chapter of Deuteronomy.

Today’s reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 111 Men Sing Odd verses; **Women sing even verses**

- ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
- ²**Great are your | works, O LORD,**
pondered by all who de- | light in them.
- ³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.
- ⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;**
you are gracious and full | of compassion.
- ⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.
- ⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works**
in giving them the lands | of the nations.
- ⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.
- ⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,**
because they are done in | truth and equity.
- ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.
- ¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;**
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures
forever.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from the eighth chapter of 1 Corinthians.

Paul is concerned about how some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable, believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause a sister or brother to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does

not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

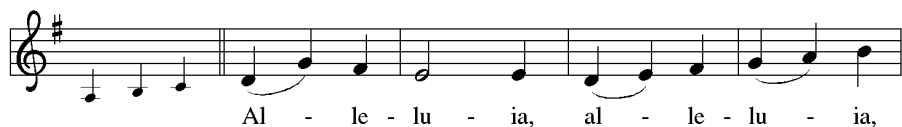
⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?

¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

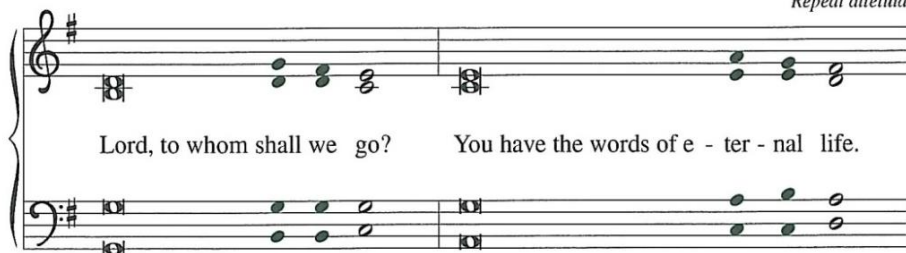
A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE All Stand & Sing



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.



P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing All Stand & Sing*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing'. It is written for a soprano and bass voice part. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score consists of two systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and a supporting bass line.

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *O Christ, the Healer* All Sing



- 1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
- 2 From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
- 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
- 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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: ourselves, 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

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For those who speak your word throughout the church in the world, O God, and for educational institutions that prepare leaders, that you will lift up prophets in our congregations, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the works of God revealed in and through creation, for an end to pollution and unjust use of natural resources, and for good weather this season, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For peace and justice throughout the world, for political leaders at all levels, and for those who provide public services, that you will grant them wisdom as they carry out their tasks, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the homeless, the unemployed, the underemployed, and their advocates; for the sick, the suffering, and their caregivers; and for the weak in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*), that your compassion be felt by all in need, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who witnessed your love in their lives and in this world, that through them our own faith will grow stronger, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* All Stand & Sing

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

SENDING

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

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

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. 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.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Judy, Carly & Mollie Caldwell in memory of Scott Caldwell.

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, January 21, 2018:

Attendance: 124

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>January 21, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 4,491.00	\$ 14,711.00
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$ 16,653.52
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 1,060.17)</u>	<u>(\$ 1,942.52)</u>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Brian Achor

GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:
Volunteers

TELLERS: Amanda Kelly
Nathan Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)
Carmen Buell, Captain
Dean & Diann Halvorson
Barbara Kasmer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:
Jenn Kearney

USHERS: Volunteers

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)
Mandi Kline

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:
Today, Sunday, January 28

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am The Service
2:00 pm Confirmation at Antioch Lutheran
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, January 30

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

Wednesday, January 31

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Saturday, February 3

6:00 pm Basketball, 4-Sq. Gym

BCO January Items of the Month



Canned Soups



The final count of peanut butter and jelly for the Gaston County Guardian ad Litem collection was in at a whopping 3,656 jars. Thank you for your participation in this very important project for the families of Gaston County.

BCO February Items of the Month



Mashed Potatoes



Rice



Grits



Oatmeal



If you are willing to serve as a ***Greeter, Lector, Usher, Eucharist Presenter, Children's Church*** OR help in the **nursery** for the **2018** year, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet for each position you are volunteering for. Each volunteer position is listed on a separate clipboard. The clipboards are in the narthex. If willing to volunteer for the whole month, then sign your name at each date for that month. **The chief lector will serve on festival Sundays. To help with the nursery or Children's Church contact Beka.**

Holy Comforter is starting a new Men's Group!

The group will focus on Service both to Holy C and the surrounding community.

An initial monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1 at 7:00 pm at Holy Comforter to gather for introductions, fellowship and to inventory the gifts we have.

Then we can discuss how and where to deploy them.

Any and all of you gifted guys are welcome-from Accountants to Woodworkers, Plumbers, Pruners, and Pickup owners.

Come and join us!

The 2018 Flower Chart is now available in the narthex.

Please *print your name* at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 vase or both).

If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.

Cost of both vases = \$45, One vase = \$22.50.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

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

Jo Irwin
The Vivian Lane Family
Vivian Lane
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Jo Singleton & Family

Ron Speck
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Kathie Schaumburg
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
John McDermid
Clarence McLain

Jennifer Lineberger
Anne Murdy
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN



Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer Colton Parker

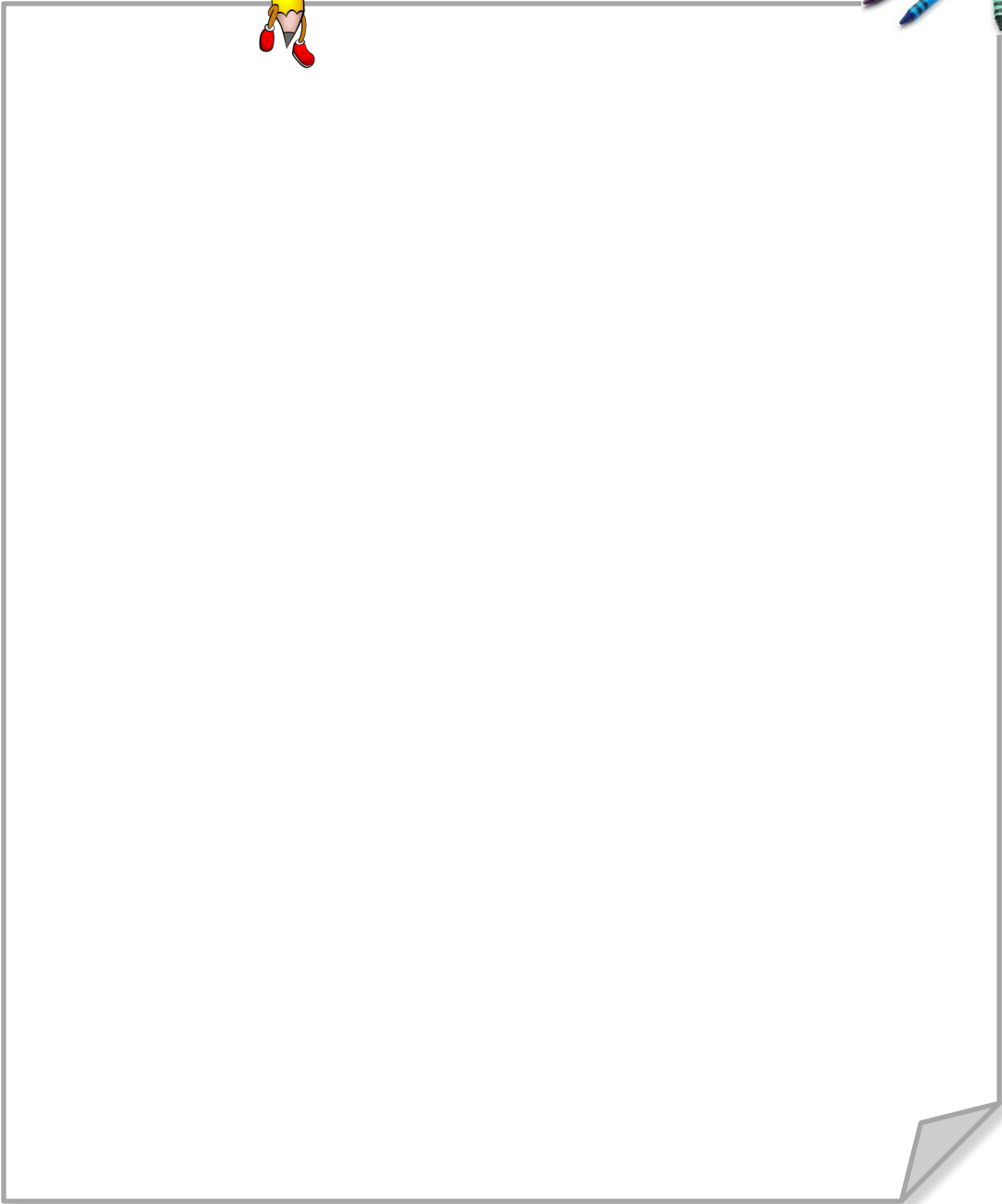
Please remember these people in your prayers.

**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



Holy Doodles





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

The 29th Annual Holy Comforter *Isle of Palms Retreat*
will be Memorial Day weekend,
Thursday, May 24 through Monday, May 28th, 2018.

Signup at the church. Contact Veronica Bryant or Mandi Kline for details.

Cost: \$99 per room per night with a minimum of 2 nights.
Make checks payable to Holy Comforter
(due by Easter Sunday)



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