

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 10, 2019

The First Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* Manz

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 gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C Amen.

P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence for reflection.

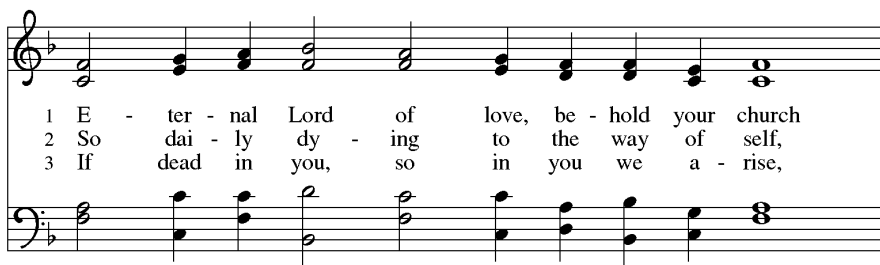
P God at the margins,

C We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ☩ Christ, leading you from death into life.

C Amen.

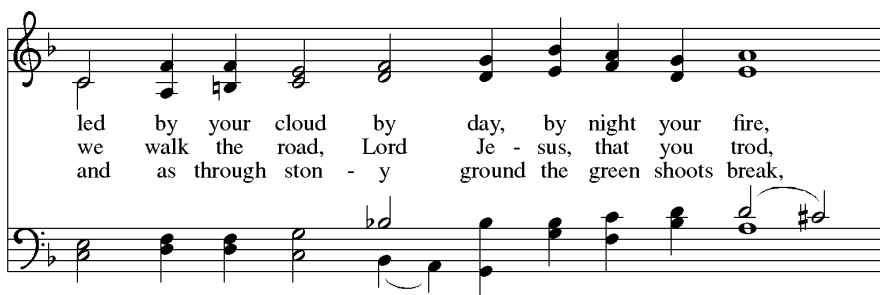
GATHERING SONG: *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church . . All Stand & Sing*



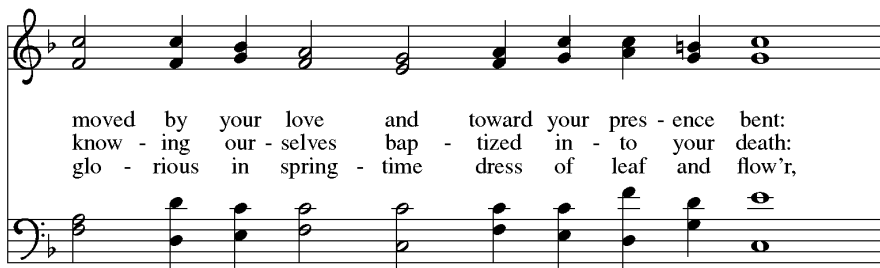
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here—the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003
 Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
 Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Pastor

Congregation

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

P

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

C

Lord, have mer - cy.

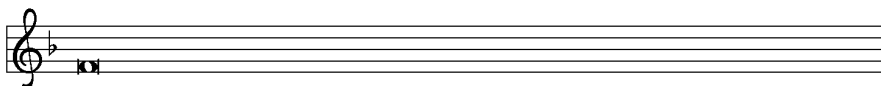
P

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.

C

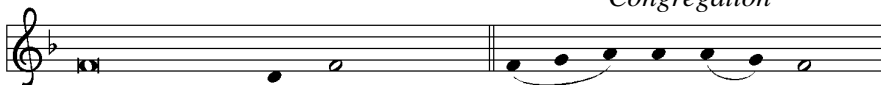
Lord, have mer - cy.

P



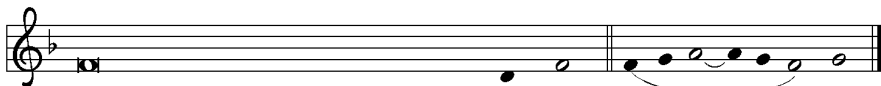
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

Congregation



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Pastor



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.



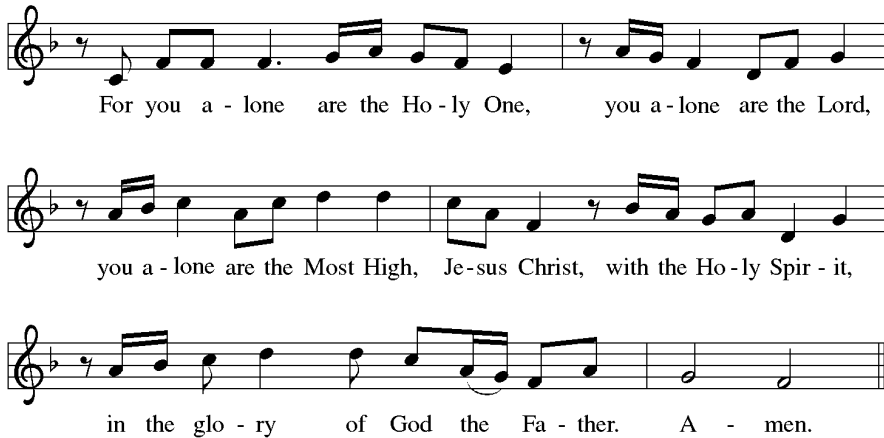
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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 nursery**.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

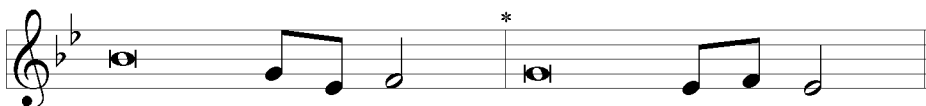
A reading from the twenty-sixth chapter of Deuteronomy.

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God’s gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16. All Sing
Men sing Odd verses, **Women sing even verses**

¹You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—
²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust.”**
⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,
¹⁰**no evil | will befall you,**

nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.

¹¹For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will | bear you up,**
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.

¹³You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who | cling to me;**
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.

¹⁵They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I | satisfy them,**
and show them | my salvation.

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from the tenth chapter of Romans.

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b}“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

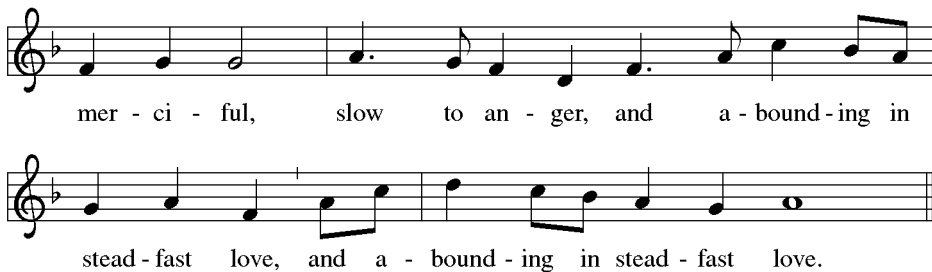
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





Luke 4:1-13

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

SERMON Pastor Micah
Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* All Stand & Sing



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and wīnds the moun-tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth-er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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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: *What Wondrous Love* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* 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 - store to me the joy of



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

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy and steadfast God, keep your word near to us, planting it in our hearts and communities. Make it blossom into proclamation for all people to receive. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As you give your Spirit freely, so also give bread that sustains every living thing. Graciously feed hungry souls and hungry stomachs with your bountiful provision. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Stir up courage among your people to resist oppressive powers and to lead people into freedom. Shine the light of your justice through their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hold tightly those who grow weary in their struggle with addiction or temptation (*especially*). By your strength bear them up to live fully in your presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Teach us the stories of our faith by heart. As you accompanied our ancestors in their uncertainty, so guide us confidently into the future. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When we struggle and are tested, redeem us by the endurance of Christ. Give us steadfast faith to strive for your glory until we witness its fullness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of 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 God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

C **Amen.**

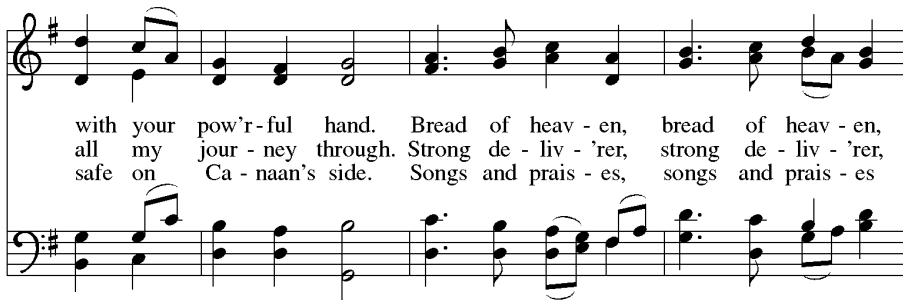
SENDING SONG: *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* All Stand & Sing



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

SENDING

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION for those who desire it will be offered at the altar after church.

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

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER: Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. **If you wish a name to be added to our prayer board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the online form at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Carmen & Merritt De Nicholas in honor of Arden's birthday; and Will & Katie Howard in honor of her mother, Joyce Dolister.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Julia Gunter, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 3, 2019:

Attendance: 120

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>March 3, 2019</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 43,980.01
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$ 53,742.07
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 589.35)</u>	<u>(\$ 9,762.06)</u>
Expected (Budgeted) Expenses		<u>52,519.05</u>
Offering less Expected Expenses		<u>(\$ 8,539.04)</u>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Judy Caldwell

GREETER: Volunteer

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Carmen De Nicholas

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

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams

TELLERS: Amanda & Nathan Kelly

USHERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, March 10:

8:45 am Children's Ensemble
9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am The Service
Volunteer Info Lunch after
5:00 pm Handbells
HCY
6:00 pm Church Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 13:

5:30 pm Youth Handbells
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
6:45 pm *Holden Evening Prayer*
7:15 pm Chamber Choir



Thursday, March 14:

10:30 am **Prime Timers** Bible study
11:30 am Lunch at *Ray Nathans*

Tuesday, March 12:

7:00 pm Social Ministry meeting
7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Saturday, March 16:

8:30 am Sanctuary Cleanup
10:00 am **Kids' Club** meets at the church
HCY leads the group



BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: March 10-16

Today, March 10 Dee Smith

March 11 Tom Kasmer

March 12 Veronica Bryant
Arden De Nicholas

March 13 Raini Kimball

March 14 Tyler Ange

Tracey Nault

Nancy Powell

March 16 Jack Kirby



Cell Phone-itis? As with our regular phones (do many of us even HAVE those anymore?), cell phones harbor make-up, skin oils, and bacteria, all of which can cause many different types of skin infections and irritations. But did you know it can also cause “mobile phone dermatitis” – a rash on chin, cheeks and ears? The allergy is triggered by nickel and cobalt, found in many cellphones – so those of you who are allergic to metals may find you also react to your phone. In a recent

study, nearly 1/3 of all BlackBerry phones contained nickel, roughly 90% of flip phones tested positive for nickel and 50% were positive for cobalt. If you have allergies to metals, consider using an earbud instead of holding the phone to your ear, rely on the speaker phone, or use a plastic cover on your phone, and be sure to research the phone before you purchase. If you decide to consider purchase of a new phone, BlackBerry Torch or Curve and all iPhones and Androids are without nickel or cobalt. It’s a wonderful world we live in, but our technologies can create new and different health issues for us, so be aware and informed, and protect yourselves when needed.



SANCTUARY CLEAN-UP DAY

Please join us to clean and prepare the sanctuary for Lent and Easter.

Saturday, March 16th from 8:30 – 11:00 am

Breakfast will be provided, and all cleaning supplies will be ready for you.

Please signup during the luncheon.

Worship & Music Committee

ALTAR FLOWERS

You can contribute to our worship service and honor or remember someone special in your life by providing altar flowers. Available dates are listed on the signup sheet in the narthex. Sign your name at the date you would like to provide the flowers. One vase is \$22.50; both vases are \$45.00. Make check payable to Holy Comforter with *Altar Flowers* on the memo line.



BEGINNING **THURSDAYS**, March 21 @ 7:00 pm
in the fellowship hall

A **ONCE-A-WEEK EXERCISE CLASS**
DESIGNED FOR **EVERYONE**

JOIN US FOR
P.E.P.
(People Exercising for a Purpose)

**FUN! Fellowship and conversation while you
exercise GENTLY!!**

**NO HUFFING, NO PUFFING, NO BOUNCY
MOVEMENTS – ALL EXERCISE CAN
BE DONE SEATED, IF NEEDED**

Join the Health Ministry in adding exercise to your
life – get the **TEAM SPIRIT! And some PEP!**

**Questions? Call Teresa Keller, RN, PN @ 717-329-8507, or email me at
parishnurse0407@gmail.com, or sign up near the coffee in the education wing.**



A signup sheet for the ***Isle of Palms Retreat*** is in the church office hallway. The dates for the retreat are Thursday, May 23 — Monday, May 27. Checks for reservations are due and deposited on Easter Sunday.

Cost: \$99 per room with 2-night minimum stay.



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: MKearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse



Holy Doodles